FRIDAY
September 29, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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AMENDMENTS NOTIFIED

New cable TV rules ease licence renewal

NEWS » PAGE 20

AUDIT FLAGS GAPS

Graft goes unheeded in MGNREGS

NEWS » PAGE 20

WIZARD EXITS

Gambon, who played 'Dumbledore', dies

WORLD » PAGE 22

PARLEY

Should generative AI be regulated?

A graded approach towards risk is crucial

OPINION » PAGE 17

IN AND OUT

Ashwin replaces Axar in World Cup squad

SPORT » PAGE 24

Architect of India's Green Revolution departs

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

M.S. SWAMINATHAN: 1925-2023

Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, popularly known as M.S. Swaminathan, the legendary agricultural scientist and a key architect of the country's Green Revolution, passed away at his residence in Chennai on Thursday, following age-related issues. He was 98.

It was the back-to-back severe drought in the mid-1960s that compelled the political leadership and scientific fraternity to look for solutions to overcome the "ship-to-mouth" existence. The country was dependent on foodgrains imported from the U.S. then. Dr. Swaminathan worked closely with two Agriculture Ministers, C. Subramaniam (1964-67) and Jagjivan Ram (1967-70 & 1974-77) for the success of the Green Revolution, a programme that paved the way for a quantum jump in productivity and production of wheat and rice through adoption of chemical-biological technology.

Funeral tomorrow

A spokesperson for the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) said the funeral will take place on Saturday. His mortal remains will be kept on the MSSRF campus in Taramani on Friday for the public to pay respects.

Recalling his contributions towards ensuring food security, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said the funeral will be held with police honours.

Dr. Swaminathan is survived by three daughters – Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist, World Health Organization; Madhura Swaminathan, Professor, Economic Analysis Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru; and Nitya Rao, Director, NISD, University of East Anglia, the U.K. His wife, Mina Swaminathan, who was Distinguished Chair, Gender and Development, MSSRF, died in March 2022.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 18
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 12 & 19

Mob tries to storm Manipur CM's home

Protests continue over death of two Meitei students; DGP sets up panel to look into allegations of use of excessive force by security personnel

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A mob tried to storm the personal residence of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh at Heingang in Imphal East on Thursday evening, amid simmering anger over the murder of two Meitei students who went missing in July. The photos of their bodies surfaced on social media earlier this week, leading to protests by students.

A government official said that additional teams of the Rapid Action Force (RAF), the Centre's anti-riot police, were deployed near the Chief Minister's residence. The crowd was stopped at a distance and dispersed with the use of non-lethal weapons.

Mr. Singh was away when the incident took place.

The Manipur Police posted on X that adequate security is in place and "the news of CM's personal residence being mobbed is false and misleading".

Deadline extended

Also on Thursday, the Manipur Director General of Police (DGP) constituted a committee to look into allegations that the security personnel have used excess force over the past few days in the Imphal area.

Meanwhile, the Union Home Ministry has extended its deadline for the Manipur government to record details of illegal migrants in the State, including biometric details. Although the State was due to complete the exercise by September 30, it has now been granted an additional six months till March 31.

Women take part in a protest in Thoubal, Manipur, on Thursday seeking action into the murder of two students. ANI

SIMMERING TENSION
» PAGE 18

Why exempt valley areas from AFSPA, ask tribes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The apex bodies of Kuki, Zomi and Naga tribes in Manipur on Thursday strongly objected to the Manipur government's notification extending the operation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for six months only in the hill districts of the State.

The notification exempting valley regions from the AFSPA showed the partisan and discriminatory mindset of the government, they said.

Bandh likely to affect life today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka bandh call given by the Kannada Okkoota, a coalition of Kannada organisations, and a host of farmer groups over the inter-State Cauvery river water dispute, is expected to affect life in Bengaluru and other parts of the State on Friday. This comes days after a Bengaluru bandh over the same issue on Tuesday.

Most modes of public and private transport are expected to be affected on Friday, even as shops and business establishments, film theatres, and eateries are also expected to be shut down at least till evening. Schools and colleges have been given a holiday in Bengaluru Urban district.

The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha has announced that farmers will block traffic on Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway and stop trains in Mandya.

Even as Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar appealed against the bandh, senior Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj, president of the okkoota, expressed confidence that the bandh would be successful across the State.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 2
METROPLUS » PAGE 11

The last lap

A Ganesha idol being taken for immersion on the final day of the Vinayaga Chaturthi festival in Mumbai on Thursday. AP

Auto driver arrested in Ujjain rape case

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

An autorickshaw driver, who was arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl he found on the streets of Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, sustained injuries while attempting to escape from police custody on Thursday, investigators said.

Earlier this week, the girl, who was left semi-clad and bleeding after the sexual assault, was found wandering the streets of the holy town. The police arrested two autorickshaw drivers on Thursday - Bharat Soni for the sexual assault and Rakesh Malviya for failing to report the crime. According to the FIR, the girl is around 15 years old.

The girl had gone missing from Satna – nearly 720 km from Ujjain – on September 24 and arrived in the city the next day.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 18

House panel to hear plaints on Bidhuri

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has referred the complaints against BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri, for using abusive language against BSP MP Danish Ali during the Special Session of Parliament, to the Privileges Committee. Mr. Bidhuri made his remarks in the lower house on the last day of the Special Session on September 21.

Parties of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had submitted independent complaints to the Speaker against Mr. Bidhuri. The tranche of complaints also includes the one made by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against Mr. Ali, for allegedly making provocative remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which he claimed incited Mr. Bidhuri to react.

The committee is headed by BJP MP Sunil Kumar Singh.

With the inspiration of Hon'ble Chief Minister
Mamata Banerjee
Minerva Natya Sanskriti Charcha Kendra
Department of Information & Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal
Presents
6th National Theatre Festival 2023
30th September – 6th October, 2023
Inaugural Ceremony: 30th September, 2023 | Rabindra Sadan | 5:30 PM
Followed by a Special Lecture session by eminent Theatre Personality, Shri Satish Alekar at 6.15 PM
Subject: Playwright's Theatre - Story of a Theatre Journey between 25th and 75th years of Independence
Distinguished Guests
Janab Firhad Hakim
Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Government of West Bengal & Mayor, Kolkata Municipal Corporation
Shri Bratya Basu
Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Government of West Bengal & Chairperson, Minerva Natya Sanskriti Charcha Kendra
Shri Indranil Sen
Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of West Bengal
Shri Atin Ghosh
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly & Deputy Mayor Kolkata Municipal Corporation
Ms. Arpita Ghosh
Hon'ble Vice Chairperson, Minerva Natya Sanskriti Charcha Kendra
Shri Debshankar Haldar
Hon'ble Chairperson, Paschimbanga Natya Akademi & Eminent Theatre Personality
Schedule
01-10-2023 I RABINDRA SADAN I 6:30 PM
Play Production: Mirage (Hindi) | Director: Randhir Kumar | Group: Raaga Repertory (Patna, Bihar)
[Specially Invited Performance]

DATE & TIME	VENUE	PLAY PRODUCTION	LANGUAGE	GROUP	DIRECTOR
02-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	MADHUSUDAN MANCHA	RAKTBEEJ	HINDI	SUTRADHAR (HYDERABAD, TELANGANA)	VINAY VARMA
02-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	RABINDRA SADAN	MR. RIGHT	BENGALI	ASHOKENAGAR NATTYAMUKH (WEST BENGAL)	AVI CHAKRABORTY
02-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	GIRISH MANCHA	BHOOMI	HINDI	SAMAGAM RANG MANDAL (JABALPUR, M.P.)	SWATI DUBEY
03-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	MADHUSUDAN MANCHA	DEVI GARJAN	BENGALI	NATYIK KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL)	BANTY BHADRA (SRIJEETA)
03-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	RABINDRA SADAN	RUDALI	HINDI & RAJASTHANI	SUMUKHA RANG MANDAL (DELHI)	ARVIND SINGH
03-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	GIRISH MANCHA	HAYAVADANA	BENGALI	LAKETOWN SREEBHUMI SANSRITI (WEST BENGAL)	DEBESH CHATTOPADHYAY
04-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	MADHUSUDAN MANCHA	ALL MY SONS	HINDI	UNICORN ACTORS STUDIO (DELHI)	HAPPY RANAJIT
04-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	RABINDRA SADAN	CHUYA CHANDAN	BENGALI	THEALIGHT (WEST BENGAL)	ATANU SARKAR
04-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	GIRISH MANCHA	SONIT JYOTIKA	ASSAMESE	DARPAN DANCE AKADEMI (GUWAHATI, ASSAM)	MANIK ROY
05-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	MADHUSUDAN MANCHA	GALI DIBENNI KAKKA	BENGALI	KAYADANGA SABUJ SANSKRITIC KENDRA (WEST BENGAL)	RAJESH DEBNATH
05-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	RABINDRA SADAN	BLACK BOARD LAND	HINDI	FLYING FEATHERS ART ASSOCIATION (DELHI)	RAJESH SINGH
05-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	GIRISH MANCHA	BINOYER JIBON	BENGALI	BARASAT RAMESH PALLY THEATRE GROUP (WEST BENGAL)	SUDIP SINHA
06-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	MADHUSUDAN MANCHA	7:40 KI LADIES SPECIAL	HINDI & BENGALI	AAWARA THEATRE GROUP (MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA)	VIREN BASOYA
06-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	RABINDRA SADAN	SAPPHO CHITRANGADAA	BENGALI	DUMDUM SHABDOMUGDHO NAATYOKENDRA (WEST BENGAL)	RAKESH GHOSH
06-10-2023 (6:30 pm)	GIRISH MANCHA	KANASARI	GUJARATI, MARATHI, KOKANI	TRIVENI (VADODARA, GUJARAT)	P S CHARI

All are cordially invited
ICA-D1804(10)/2023

A dictionary to save a language from extinction

Toto Shabda Sangraha will help revive Toto, spoken by around 1,600 people in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan

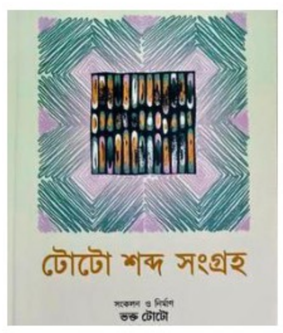
Bishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

A language spoken by barely 1,600 people living in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan is to get a dictionary, thanks to the efforts of a professor at the University of Calcutta.

Toto is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken by the tribal Toto people and is written in the Bengali script. Even though prominent community member Dhaniram Toto developed a script as recently as in 2015, most people either write it in Bengali script or write in Bengali language. A book by the Padma Shri-decorated Mr. Toto, titled *Dhanua Totor Kathamala*, was written in Bengali.

The dictionary is a step in the direction of preserving the language, alive so far only orally, by putting its vocabulary in print.

Here too, Toto words, to be translated into Bengali and English, will be composed in the Bengali script, considering that the Toto script is still in a nascent stage and members of the tribe are more familiar with the Bengali script.



Toto Shabda Sangraha will be released in Kolkata on October 7. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The book [dictionary] is historic, in the sense that the community does not have any collection of words or published primer. Mr. Toto's book is in Bengali," said Mrinmoy Pramanick, assistant professor of Comparative Indian language and Literature in the University of Calcutta and chairman of Calcutta Comparatists 1919, a trust he founded along with his students to save marginal languages from extinction.

The trilingual dictionary, *Toto Shabda Sangraha*, will be released in Kolkata on October 7, at a function marking its founding.

The dictionary has been compiled by Bhakta Toto, a bank employee-cum-poet and published jointly by the trust and Bhasha Samsad, a publishing house run by Bitasta Ghoshal.

Said Bhakta Toto's daughter Sanchita: "This book will protect the language from vanishing."

Ground Survey

As the ICC ODI World Cup is all set to be held in India from October 5 to November 19, an in-depth look at the venues which will host the cricketing extravaganza; today, we feature the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow

SANDEEP SAXENA

Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan

The Ekana Stadium in Lucknow has been added to the venue roster for the 2023 ICC ODI World Cup, bringing immense pride to the city's cricketing community. The venue, inaugurated in 2017, serves as the home ground for the Indian Premier League franchise Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and is also a preferred venue for international women's cricket. Furthermore, it has been the adopted home ground for Afghanistan's men's team for its international fixtures.

Yudhvir Singh, the secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association, believes hosting World Cup matches will boost cricket in the region and encourage young talent. They are committed to making it a memorable experience for all involved.

If you are planning to watch a game at the Ekana Stadium during the World Cup, here's all you need to know:

Capacity: The Ekana Stadium has a capacity of approximately 50,000 spectators. The general stands on the east and west ends hold 44,296 seats, while the rest are allocated to hospitality areas in the north and south ends. Among these, 2,716 seats are reserved for closed hospitality areas, and about 3,390 seats are designated for semi-hospitality (open President's Stand) areas. Importantly, there are no pillars or sight screens, ensuring an unobstructed view for all spectators at Ekana.

Hospitality boxes: There are 32 hospitality boxes, 16 at each end. While seat distribution varies, each box is equipped with its own washroom and shower. Additionally, there are four VVIP areas, typically hosting the city's political figures, with their own dining spaces. These areas are reserved for esteemed guests and dignitaries. In terms of seat allocation, the BCCI has reserved 200 seats, the International Cricket Council 250 seats, participating teams 40 seats, and the UPCA 400 seats, as per a tentative seating arrangement accessed by Sportstar.

WiFi will be available to players and select guests. Three levels in the North and South Ends can be accessed by stairs and elevators on either side. There will be a separate entrance and stairway for participating teams to safeguard their privacy and safety.

Practice facilities: Adjacent to the Ekana Stadium is a B ground with 19 pitches and net facilities, utilised for cricket coaching camps, academy matches, and club games. The LSG prioritises this space for its preparations. However, there are no indoor nets or practice areas available on-site.

Pitches: The Ekana Stadium pitch drew scrutiny when Hardik Pandya criticised it as a 'shocker' following a low-scoring T20I against New Zealand. Subsequently, the curator, Surendra Yadav, was replaced by Sanjeev Agarwal. After the 2023 IPL season, the pitch underwent extensive renovation. Pictures of the entire centre being dug up circulated on social media, revealing salt accumulation. Agarwal utilised terreplex, a safe acid, to modify soil pH and dissolve calcified deposits over a 14-day period. The pitch consists of three layers: a base of coarse soil, an intermediate layer, and an eight-inch top layer of cricketing soil, with some venues opting for clay while others use sand. "We have brought in black soil from Odisha, which is one of the best to use for cricket. It has a 67 percent clay composition. Ekana has nine pitches in total, of which four have a black soil base while the other five use red soil – Mumbai soil, which helps more with turn," Agarwal said.

Floodlights: The stadium has six halogen floodlight towers, which need 30 minutes to come on completely.

Drainage and outfield: There is a herringbone drainage system, resembling the bones of a herring fish, which includes a central sloping pipe with lateral pipes to efficiently manage water. This design allows for match resumption within 30 minutes after the rain stops. Additionally, the system collects rainwater in a moat around the outfield for reuse.

Entry points: There are five main entrance gates and 25 entry points to the stands. Gate No. 3 is typically reserved for players and VIPs. A peripheral road encircles the main venue, facilitating easy car and bus access, a rarity among Indian stadiums. However, crowd control will be crucial on busy match days to ensure the passageway remains usable for vehicles. Five hundred parking slots for two-wheelers and four-wheelers are available in multiple areas.

Although Lucknow lacks metro access to the stadium, buses run to Amar Shaheed Path, the main connecting road. E-rickshaws and shuttle services are also considered for fan mobility on match days. An issue reporters faced during the IPL was delays at security checks as those in the Sportz City would also access the facilities through the same entrances. Security for the World Cup will be more adept and experienced in experiencing this, and arrangements are also expected to facilitate the smooth entry and exit of fans.

Accessibility and challenges: There are good facilities for wheelchair-bound spectators, including spacious walkways in the stands and seats at stair levels with wheelchair access in every block. Six spiral ramps around the stadium ensure easy access to the stands. The venue prioritises accessibility for fans with varying abilities, and the organisers are considering providing wheelchairs on campus if necessary. However, ramps are not available within the stands for movement between blocks, limiting wheelchair-accessible seating to that specific floor level.

In case of emergency: There will be six medical kiosks. Four ambulances will be on standby at the premises, with two dedicated to players, one each for the home and away team.

Dressing rooms: There are two spacious dressing rooms in the South End, painted in a blue-ivory-white colour scheme. They offer identical facilities for both home and away teams, including player sofas, individual slots with storage and lockers, and a viewing gallery for support staff. Connected to the dressing rooms is a large dining area, with passageways leading to saunas, ice baths, and jacuzzi rooms for player warm-up and recovery. A common gym is centrally located between the dressing rooms, and washrooms and showers are readily accessible.

Washrooms: Every block offers accessible washroom facilities for men, women, and the differently abled. These spacious washrooms feature over 15 cubicles, multiple urinals, good ventilation, and convenient proximity to stand entrances. Dedicated washrooms for the differently abled include support handles and safe flooring, with accessible wash basins, although height could be a concern for some users.

Water: Drinking water fountains are found in the common area of every block. The BCCI plans to tie up with the official 'pouring partner' of the tournament to provide free drinking water for all the spectators.

Renewable energy: At the moment, Ekana does not use renewable energy. The stadium has generator backup to ensure there are no stoppages in play or broadcast due to electricity failure. "Renewable energy like solar panels are concepts we've earmarked to explore in the future given the space we have here in the stadium campus," Ankit Chatterjee, CEO of UPCA, said.

The ground itself, however, uses harvesting mechanisms to maximise the use of rainwater in the upkeep of the premises and to direct back to the RO water facility set up here in the maintenance of the pitch.

Areas that need attention: The media box in the Ekana Stadium has a capacity of 60. The ICC World Cup is expecting a massive inflow of journalists from around the world, which the organisers here need to work on accommodating.

Groundstaff and locals say that rainfall in Lucknow has been less than optimal so far, with worries about rain interruptions during the World Cup. Provisions for indoor nets and training spaces should be one addition to the preparations ahead of the tournament.

To address spectators' concerns, particularly those driving from the city, the UPCA is collaborating with security agencies to streamline parking and the walk to the main stadium, with a focus on ensuring organised entry and exit, especially during India's scheduled match.

THE GIST

The Ekana Stadium will host five matches

- October 13 (Australia vs South Africa)
- October 16 (Australia vs Sri Lanka)
- October 21 (The Netherlands vs Sri Lanka)
- October 29 (India vs England)
- November 3 (The Netherlands vs Afghanistan)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Client is intending to purchase Residential immovable property bearing New No.71, (Old No. 21),PID No.75-31-71, situated at 25 feet road Saraswathipuram, Halasuru Jogupalya B'lore-08, Measuring E-W: 40 ft or 12.19 Mtrs and N-S :30 ft or 9.14 Mtrs, and bounded on the East By: Site No. 12, West By: 25 ft Road, North by : Private Property, South by : Site No. 20 from its owner MR. K. ABDUL FEROZ, S/o, Late Abdul Razak, No 71, Saraswathipuram Halasuru Jogupalya, B'lore-08, Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within 15 days of publication hereof, failing which, our client will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

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& H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
ADVOCATES
No.57, 1st Floor, Veerapilla Street, Bengaluru-01 Mob :9341380225

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that my client **1) Sri. T.A. SENTHIL and 2) Smt. S. VIDYA** are negotiating to purchase all that properties described in the Schedule herein. From **(1) Sri. K.R. HARISH** S/o. Late Ramaiah K.M., **(2) Smt. SUVARNA .R** W/o. Janardhana K, **(3) Smt. K.R. BHARATHI** W/o. M. Ramachandra, **(4) Sri.C.H. LAKSHMINARAYANA SHETTY,** S/o.Late Chikkahanumantha Setty and **(5) Kumari. LAKSHMI .R** D/o. Ramu K, WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE OWNERS OF THE Schedule Properties. Any person or persons having any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule properties or any party thereof, in any manner whatsoever against the schedule properties based on the documents pertaining to the said properties or objections for the proposed development, may lodge their **OBJECTIONS** and or **CLAIMS** with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of this publication. Any objections or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned properties on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule properties.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the **Sy No. 46/1 (old No. 46) CMC 540/1, measuring East to West 100 Feet, North to South 80 feet, totally measuring about 7,960 square feet vacant site including site No.540/1, 540/1, 540/1 & 540/2, each measuring 1,200 square feet and all situated at Rajarajeswarinagara Zone, ward 159, Kengeri, CMC Katha No. 540/1, now at Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara palike, Bengaluru** and bounded on the ; **East by :** Mysuru Road, **West by :** Property of Sri. Bekappa, **North by :** Property of Sri. Krishnappa, **South by :** Property of Sri. Gurulingappa,

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NO.PCB/230/SEO/MINES/EPH/2023-24/3564 **DATE: 27.09.2023**

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. Star Beneficiation, has proposed to establish Mineral Beneficiation plant of capacity 4,95,000 TPA in a total lease area of 6.36 Acres (Revenue land) at Sy. Nos. 138/1 & 140/2/A, Lakshmipura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka.

As Per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project Proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing process. As per the Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. SEIAA 19 IND 2023 dated: 12.04.2023 issued by SEIAA, Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated: 03.05.2023 and Regional Officer, Ballari letter dated: 20.09.2023 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by KSPCB.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name of the Company & Address: M/s. Star Beneficiation, H No. 213, Asst. No. 3226, Ward No. 14, Teachers Colony, Sandur, Ballari District- 583 119.

2. Location of the proposed project: Sy. Nos. 138/1 & 140/2/A of Lakshmipura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District in a total lease area of 6.36 Acres.

3. Details of proposed project: Proposed to establish Mineral Beneficiation plant of capacity 4,95,000 TPA.

4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing: **Date: 30.10.2023 (Monday) Time: 03:00 PM Place: Project area, Lakshmipura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District.**

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District, Ballari. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Ballari District, Ballari. (c) District Industries Centre, Ballari District, Ballari. (d) Taluk Panchayath Office, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District. (e) Gram Panchayath Office, Lakshmipura Village, Sandur Taluk. (f) Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari. (g) SEIAA Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 709, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001. (h) HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

Note : Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/ Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District, Ballari). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details please visit our Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

"STOP USING SINGLE USE PLASTICS "

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that, our client is proceeding to purchase the schedule property and have intending to enter into an agreement to purchase the schedule property from M/s Kareems Silk International Limited Regd., Office at No.6B & 7, Industrial Area, Nanjungud – 5721301, Karnataka, India, If any individual / body has / ve any right, title, interest, claim, charges, lien, enforceable right, objections to the above transaction or whatsoever over the schedule property, they shall lodge their legal claim or whatsoever along with relevant documentary evidence with in **7 (seven) days** from the date of this notice to the under signed. If any legal claim or whatsoever not received it will be deemed to presume that there are no valid claims or objections subsists and our clients would proceed to complete the sale transaction as if there are no such claim or objections exists.

-:SCHEDULE:-

All THE PART AND PARCEL OF THE Plot No.6B & 7 in Sy No. 167,168,169, 234 to 241, 250, Nanjangud Industrial Area, Kallahally, Kasaba Hobli, Nanjangud Taluk, Mysore District about 4 acres and bounded on:- **EAST BY :** Remaining portion of Plot No 6B & 7; **WEST BY :** Private Property, AGP GAS; **NORTH BY:** KIADB Road; **SOUTH BY :** Private Property.

Bindiya Kulkarni Advocate,
No.206A, II Floor, Embassy Square,
No 148, Infantry Road, Bangalore 560001

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule of property from its owners MR. ANTHONY RAJ, aged about 58 years, Son of Mr.Sandehappa, Residing at Church Street, Chikka Byrathi, Sir SRK Nagar Post, Bangalore- 560077; and MR. RAJAPPA, aged about 52 years, Son of Mr. Venkataramanappa, Residing at No., 28, Anagalpura, Bangalore-562149.

If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims /details of dispute/s within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/ objections / disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims / objections / disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being Vacant Site No.36, Khatha No.36/1, formed in Sy.No. 9, situated at Bilishivale Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 sft, and bounded by: East - Site No.35; West - Site No.37; North -Site No.21; South - Road.

Sd/-
K.B.Mukundan,B.A.,LL.M,
Advocate,
No.203, BSR Residency,
Kanakanagar, R.T.Nagar,
Bangalore-32. Cell: 9448354295

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Sri. MANGESH PADMANABHA KAMATH** intends to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. Ashok Bangalore, S/o Late B Krishnamurthy** who had purchased the same through a **registered Sale Deed dated 26-12-2003,** registered in **Book I, Document No.26594/2003-04, C.D.No 153,** in the **Sub-registrar office Kengeri on 26-12-2003** and **a Rectification Deed Registered in Book I, as DocumentNo.JPN-1-07020/209-10, C.D.No.JPND64, dated 19-03-2010** in the office of Sub-registrar J.P Nagar, Bangalore and **a supplementary deed dated 24-12-2021 registered in book-1 as document number BMH-1-07693-2021-22 stored in CD No BMHD1558 registered** on **14-01-2022.**

It is therefore requested that the general public who have any claim over the schedule property or objection for the proposed purchase shall lodge such claim/objection in writing with supporting documents with the undersigned **within fifteen days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no such claim or objection is received, my client will complete the deal as proposed. Time barred objection if any will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Immovable **Residential Site bearing No.314 (formerly mentioned as Site No.315)** formed by Bank officers and Officials House Building Co-operative Society Limited, situated at BOOHBCS Layout, Dodda-kallasandra First Stage,Doddakllasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Measuring East to West 60'-0" Feet and North to South 67'-0" Feet in all measuring **4020 Square Feet,** and bounded on the :-

East by : Road; **West by :** Site No.334 and 335; **North by :** Site No.315; **South by :** Road.

(P Mahalinga Bhat & Srividya P.M.)
Advocates,
Office Address: No.2386,T F-2, 3rd Floor, Keerthi Kuteeram Apartment, Pipeline Road, K.S. Layout, Bangalore – 78
Mobile - +91 9341215791

Date : 28-09-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule of property from its owners MR. ANTHONY RAJ, aged about 58 years, Son of Mr.Sandehappa, Residing at Church Street, Chikka Byrathi, Sir SRK Nagar Post, Bangalore- 560077; and MR. RAJAPPA, aged about 52 years, Son of Mr. Venkataramanappa, Residing at No., 28, Anagalpura, Bangalore-562149.

If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims /details of dispute/s within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/ objections / disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims / objections / disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being Vacant Site No.36, Khatha No.36/1, formed in Sy.No. 9, situated at Bilishivale Village, Bidrahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 sft, and bounded by: East - Site No.35; West - Site No.37; North -Site No.21; South - Road.

Sd/-
K.B.Mukundan,B.A.,LL.M,
Advocate,
No.203, BSR Residency,
Kanakanagar, R.T.Nagar,
Bangalore-32. Cell: 9448354295

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ)ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570024. ಇಮೇಲ್: eeemccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ–08/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.09.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1.	ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪೂ)/ ಟಿಎನ್–15/2023–24, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.09.2023	13	22.09.2023 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	30.09.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	01.09.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ ನಂತರ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂರ್ವ) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. **ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ:** ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ / ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ಪೂರ್ವ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/429/23-24

Government of Karnataka
(Forest Department)
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN PARK CUM MINI ZOO, KALABURAGI
Office Phone No. 08472 -256601 email:dcf_tgulbarga@yahoo.co.in

No. A7/ZOO/CIVIL WORK/E-Tender/CR-3/2023-24 Date: 26.09.2023

:: CALL-2 TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Detail of work : **Construction of Spotted Deer Enclosure in Zoo Area at New Zoological Park Madbool Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi,** 2) Amount of Estimate : **55.00 Lakhs,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor /firm : As per tender documents, 4) Details of Tender application Amount and EMD Amount : Tender Fee As per e- Portal E.M.D Min. Rs. 1,10,000/-, 5) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications : **05.10.2023 up to 4.00 PM**, 6) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tender : **06.10.2023 upto 4.30 PM**, 7) Date &Time for opening of Technical Bid : **07.10.2023 after 5.30 PM**, 8) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid: **09.10.2023 after 5.00 PM**, 9) Add.Information : DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN PARK CUM MINI ZOO, KALABURAGI, 10) Address of E- Portal.: **http:kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests & Executive Director of Children Park Cum Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/319/KSMC&A/2023-24

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FLORA S, D/o. No.2687420X, Rank: Ex-NK S.Gnana Shekhar, presently residing at #232, 7th A Cross, MEC Layout, Peenya 3rd Phase, Land Mark: Kamalamma Temple, Bengaluru 560058 have changed my name from Flora S to Flora S Jennifer vide Affidavit dated: 27.09.2023, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shashidhar Mehta S/o Pandurang, residing at 4th Cross, Nehru Road, Vidyagiri, Bagalkot, Karnataka - 587102, have changed the name of minor Son Shlok Hosur aged 6 years and he shall hereafter be known as Sonu Mehta.

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TENDERS

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA (ICAI)
(Set up by an Act of Parliament)
Head Office : ICAI Bhawan, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi – 110 002.
Regional Office : ICAI Bhawan, 122, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034. Tamil Nadu, India.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

ICAI invites bids, in prescribed format, from experienced and reputed Architectural firms / Architects for Appointment of Architect for providing comprehensive Architectural and PMC services for ICAI International Centre of Excellence (ICOE) proposed institutional building, at Institutional plot covering plot No's. Pb-10, 11, 12, 13/1, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23 in the SIPCOT industrial estate, Irungattukkottai, Sriperumbudur taluk, Kancheepuram district- 602 117, Tamil Nadu.

The last date of receipt of duly filled in bids is 01/11/2023 , up to 5.00 PM. The detailed terms and conditions Tender are available at ICAI's www.icai.org & www.sirc-icai.org.

Secretary, ICAI

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LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Vatakara
OP (MV) 683/2021

Greeshma.G.Nathan @ Mrs.Nathan Greeshma G. ***: Petitioner***
Muhammed Musthafa,
S/o. K.H.Hasanabba, Fathima Manzil, Light House, Halengady Village, Mangalore, Pin - 574146
: Respondent 1

That the above case is posted to 03.10.2023 for the appearance of respondent No.1 otherwise he will be set exparte by Hon'ble Court.

(Sd/-) **P.P.Lineesh**
Advocate for Petitioner

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT WANAPARTHY
I.A.NO. 175 OF 2022
O.S.No. 6 OF 2021

Between:
Vatiki Venkaiah ....Petitioner/Plaintiffs
AND
Raja Hamsa Dasa @ C. Ramesh Chairman, Sri Chaitanya Charitable Foundation, No. 25, Seppings Road, 4th Cross, Banglore - 560001. ...Respondent/Defendant
To
Raja Hamsa Dasa @ C. Ramesh Chariman, Sri Chaitanya Charitable Foundation, No. 25, Seppings Road, 4th Cross, Banglore - 560001.

Please take notice that the petitioner has filed a petition for restoration of the suit of and numbered as I.A. No. 175 of 2022 in O.S. No. 6 of 2021 against you.

You are hereby wanted to appear before the above said court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the 5-10-2023 at 10:30 O'clock the forenoon to show cause against he applications, failing which the said application will heard and decided ex parte as per law.

(By Order of The Court)
T. SRINIVASA CHARY
Advocate
R/o. H.No. 1186 Brahmin Street, Wanaparthy, Mahabubnagar, Telangana **Ph: 9885218375**

IN THE COURT OF THE 74th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-75)
O.S .NO. 25498/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mysthree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its Relationship Manager and POA Holder Ms. Mansi Singh
...Plaintiff

And
Sri Sukhdev Jangir
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri Sukhdev Jangir,
S/o Sri Ghisa Ram Jangir,
Aged about 53 years,
2nd Floor, 201, Berahmin Street, Gandhi Circle, Varthur, Near Virtuemall, Bangalore- 560 087

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 8,31,153/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Fifty Three Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 74th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge **(CCH -75)** in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **27-10-2023** at **11:00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this**19/09/2023.**

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
CITY CIVIL COURT
MAYOHALL UNIT
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 13th ADDI. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALOR (CCH 22)
O.S. NO. 25535/2023

BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road.
Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh,
Aged about 24 years
D/o. Mr. Anil Kumar Singh
...PLAINTIFF

AND:
1. MR. NATARAJ A.
S/o Ananthanarayana,
Aged about 55 years,
No. 1538, Rudrakrupa
Building vidaya, Kanagara
Chikana Garden, Tiptur,
Tumkur-572201.
...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,86,805.65/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Five and paisa Sixty Five Only)** apart from future interest of 24%, in O.S. No.25535/2023 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 22, Before 13th Addl., City Civil Court Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 07th day of November, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this 14th day of the September, 2023

By the Order Of Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayohall,
Bengaluru- 560001

FX & Co.,
ADVOCATES
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560005

IN THE COURT OF THE LXV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-65)
O.S. No. 6876/2022
Hg. 24/11/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited,
having its registered office at, Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at: 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative
Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And :
Mrs. Baishakhi Dey
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mrs. Baishakhi Dey
D/o. Malay Ghosh
Aged about 41 years
No.13, K. No. 48/02/13,
Lakshmi Sagar,
Mahadevapura, Near
Ganesha Temple, Bangalore-560048.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 3,93,670.07/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXIV Addl. City Civil &Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (CCH-65), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **24-11-2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 19th day of September, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', #3, Queens Road, Bengaluru-01.

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J BG-BGE

Bandh likely to disrupt life in city today

Public and private transport unions, private school administrations, film industry, as well as hotel and restaurant associations have declared support to the bandh call given by Kannada organisations

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru is gearing up for yet another bandh scheduled for Friday, as Kannada organisations have declared a day-long shutdown across the state opposing releasing Cauvery water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu. This bandh is expected to disrupt the daily lives of residents, with the possibility of private and public transport going off roads, shops, eateries and theatres shutting down, even as schools and colleges have been declared a holiday, as a precautionary measure.

Following the bandh call by Kannada organisations, numerous other organisations, such as public and private transport unions, private school administrations, the film industry, as well as hotel and restaurant associations, declared their support.

Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj and others staging a protest against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Cabs, autos, buses

The Autorickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU) has chosen to endorse the bandh and has called upon all autorickshaw drivers to show their solidarity by refraining from operating their autos. T.M. Rudramurthy, general secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union in Bengaluru, said, "I urge all the city's drivers to join in and contribute to the success of the bandh. Tomorrow, auto-rickshaws will not ply the streets for the entire day."

Tanveer Pasha, the president of Ola, Uber Drivers and Owners' Association in Bengaluru said that "We cab drivers always support the cause related to our water, language, and culture. All cab drivers will refrain from working to show our support for our farmers."

The KSRTC Staff and Workers Federation, representing Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) employees, has announced its support to the bandh and encouraged BMTC staff to refrain from driving bus services on Thursday at all depots. However, BMTC and KSRTC officials have asserted that services will remain unaffected, but they will go by the police advisory.

No hotels

City residents may face disruptions in their access to hotel food as hotels have also supported the bandh. P.C. Rao, vice president of the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels Association, confirmed their support to the bandh. Additionally, the Karnataka State Hotels Association held a meeting on Thursday and decided to close all hotels across the State. B. Chandrasekhar Hebbar, the president of the association, said, "We conducted an online meeting with all our members across the State and have collectively decided to support the bandh."

The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha has declared it will block both the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway and rail routes. "We will halt trains at Gejjalagere and obstruct all vehicles on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway near Gauripura," they said.

Airport goers to be hit

The airport goers may also be hit tomorrow since airport cabs are likely to stop their service. Anticipating difficulty in reaching the airport, some people are going hours ahead, while others are contemplating booking hotels at or near the airport.

Anamika, who has a flight from Bengaluru airport to Sydney at 6 p.m., is planning to go to the airport at 4 a.m. before the bandh to be safe.

In a passenger advisory issued by the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) it stated "Due to the bandh called by various unions and organisations on September 29, we anticipate disruption in transport service, passengers are advised to plan their travel to and from the airport accordingly. Passengers are requested to follow alerts from respective airlines, law enforcement agencies and media releases for further updates."

Work from Home

Meanwhile, most of the IT-BT companies and large private employers have decided to shut down the physical office on Friday and have asked their employees to work from home. The companies had adopted a similar strategy on Tuesday during Bengaluru Bandh call.

Prohibitory orders clamped in city, security stepped up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru City Police have clamped prohibitory orders under Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in the city for 24 hours from Thursday night, in view of the Karnataka bandh call given by various organisations over Cauvery river water dispute on Friday.

Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said the Supreme Court had termed a bandh that affects public life "unconstitutional" and that anyone trying to forcefully enforce a bandh would be in contempt of court. "Instructions have been given to the personnel to take stringent action against anyone who is forcing others to participate in the bandh," he said.

He also said any damage to public and private property will have to be borne by the perpetrators.

As prohibitory orders have been clamped like on Tuesday for Bengaluru bandh, permission for any protest rallies and marches have been denied in the city on Friday too. However, all protests are to be held at Freedom Park. Mr. Dayananda said any violation of this rule will attract penal action. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain law and order in the city.

Reserve police forces like Karnataka State Reserve Police, and City Armed Reserve have been deployed along with regular police force in full strength on the ground at strategic locations to ensure no untoward incidents occur. As part of precautionary measures, local police have also begun making preventive detentions on the eve of the bandh call.

Holiday for schools and colleges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The district administration has declared holiday on Friday for schools and colleges in Bengaluru Urban district following the Karnataka Bandh call given by various Kannada organisations.

Deputy Commissioner K.A. Dayananda, has issued an order declaring the holiday. Following this, the schools, colleges and universities have postponed the examinations scheduled on Friday.

And, the Bengaluru University has also postponed its 58th convocation, which was scheduled on September 29, earlier.

Kannada activists disrupt actor Siddharth's press conference

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid tensions over the Cauvery row, Kannada activists barged into a press conference being addressed by actor Siddharth, ahead of Karnataka bandh on September 29. Siddharth was in Bengaluru on Thursday to promote the Kannada dubbed version of his Tamil film *Chithha*.

"When the Kannada Film Chamber itself has extended support to the bandh, how can you hold a film-related event?", the activists questioned Siddharth and the reporters present at the event. The actor remained unfazed and started seeking support for his film in Kannada. "We have been fighting for the last 15 days. While our water is being sent to Tamil Nadu, is it right for a Tamil actor to come and promote his film here?," added the activists. Owing to the pressure, Siddharth thanked the reporters and walked out.

Actor Siddharth

The actor was in the city to promote the Kannada dubbed version of his Tamil film 'Chithha'

Bandh will not be allowed: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said the government will not allow Karnataka bandh on Friday and all organisations have to obey the Supreme Court and High Court rulings that have pronounced bandh as illegal.

When his reaction was sought on the Karnataka bandh call given by pro-Kannada and farmers' organisations, Mr. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, said the activists and organisations can stage a protest at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru. But the State-wide or Bengaluru bandh would not be allowed, he said.

The bandh would cause inconvenience to the public and business establishments in the State. "Being responsible citizens, the people have to obey the court rulings with regard to bandh", he said.

Kannada film industry to extend support

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several members of the Kannada film industry are expected to join the protest on Friday as part of the Karnataka bandh called to oppose release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) has sent an invite to actors and technicians of the industry for the protest.

Bigwigs of the industry such as Shivarajkumar, Dhruva Sarja, veteran Prema, and others are set to join the protest at the Sri Gururaja Kalyaana Mantapa at High Grounds, Gandhi Nagar. Superstar Sudeep, who is shooting for his upcoming film, has sent a letter in support of the protest. *KGF*-star Yash is currently in London as part of the preparations for his next project. N.M. Suresh, the newly-elected president of the KFCC, said that the protest would begin at 10:30 a.m. Earlier in the week, senior stars such as Shivarajkumar, Sudeep, and Darshan had expressed support for farmers amidst the row.

Stars like Shivarajkumar, Dhruva Sarja are expected to attend the protest organised by the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce

Theatres to be closed

Meanwhile, theatres across the State have cancelled shows till evening on Friday, as the Karnataka Film Exhibitors Association has declared its solidarity with the bandh. K.V. Chandrasekhara, the association's president, said, "We have opted to keep all cinema halls closed until the evening, and evening shows will proceed as scheduled."

Two arrested for vandalising hotels in city during bandh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jayanagar police on Thursday arrested two individuals, reportedly workers of the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party for ransacking three hotels in Jayanagar, which was operating during Bengaluru bandh on Tuesday.

The accused have been identified as Yogesh and Somashekhar, while efforts are on to track down their associates.

The accused attacked Udupi Hub situated on 8th F Main, 3rd Block, and two other hotels which were operating during the bandh on September 26. The accused pelted stones and ransacked the premises before fleeing from the spot. The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras which helped the police to identify the accused .

Apart from two other hotels which were attacked by the violent protestors, the accused have also attacked a wine store, a super market, a Cafe Coffee Day outlet and another cafe in Jayanagar, the same day. As many as five FIRs have been filed against the unruly mob in Jayanagar police station on the same day.

Travel plans for long weekend unaffected despite call for bandh across State

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

It seems like the Karnataka bandh call given by various Kannada and farmer activist groups on Friday hasn't had much effect on the travel plans of those from Bengaluru during the long weekend stretching between September 28 and October 2. While a few families have postponed their vacation plans to avoid getting stuck in commotions, most are continuing with their itineraries which were made weeks ago.

"We have not received any cancellations so far due to the bandh. As it is a long weekend, families are getting together and booking packages and going by bus. We cannot tell them that we would not be able to provide buses as bookings have already been made. Hence, travel plans have not been affected so far," said Mahantesh from Tejas Tours and Travels

Cross-border travel

However, the looming uncertainty over the tensions between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have made some travellers apprehensive about crossing borders.

Some private tour operators reported that there was a slight uptick in the number of international bookings.

A tour operator from New Hoysala Tours and Travels in Yeshwantpur said, "While Ooty, Kodaikanal, Madurai, Rameshwaram, and other destinations are favourites during this season, people from Karnataka are scared to go to Tamil Nadu as they fear that vehicles going from Karnataka might face problems there. Even those coming from Tamil Nadu to Karnataka also have the same fears." He continued, "While upper-middle-class families are not changing their plans, those from the lower middle class have postponed their trips (as hotels do not provide a refund in case of cancellations) to a later date." Most tour operators also said that it is unlikely for tourism to be affected in both States.

"We already sent some of our vehicles to destinations like Pondicherry, Kanyakumari, and Kodaikanal as many preferred to leave on Wednesday night itself. Only on the day of bandh, most people are hesitant to leave. Such tourists will leave either in the night hours on Friday or early morning on Saturday," said Ramu from Sri Ranga Tours and Travels in Bommanahalli. "The bookings were very good for this weekend, and it had started 10 to 15 days earlier only. We are assuring people that there will be no inconveniences during the travel," Ramu added.

On Wednesday evening, with many people leaving the city to travel, the exit points in the City witnessed traffic snarls. "As some of my cousins had come from the U.S., my family had booked a small tour to Ooty - Kodaikanal via a private bus for this weekend about two months ago. As we will start on Thursday night and come back Monday afternoon, we are going ahead with the plan as the bandh is only on Friday," said Vasudev. S, a resident of Talaghattapura.

Apart from Ooty, Kodaikanal and Wayanad in the neighbouring States, Kodagu, Chikkamagalur, Sakaleshpura, Gokarna, and Murdeshwara are the preferred choices for domestic travel. "Even though they might not go out of the State, most people will make use of the long weekend to travel domestically to Sakaleshpura or Kodagu or Mysuru. Most properties across the State have received good bookings for this period," said K. Syama Raju, president, Karnataka Tourism Society. Sources said many properties have also hiked prices during the long weekend.

Peak tourism

The properties of Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) are also running on 100% occupancy while tour packages are running on 80% to 85% occupancy, revealed G. Jagadeesha, managing director, KSTDC. In the meantime, some private tour operators said that there was a slight uptick in the number of international bookings with Dubai, Turkey, and Singapore - Malaysia being the preferred destinations.

Ban orders imposed in Mandya sub-division

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

While the Mandya district and Mysuru city police have said that the bandh called by various farmers and pro-Kannada organisations on Friday will not be allowed, the authorities have imposed prohibitory orders in Mandya sub-division to ensure law and order in the light of threat to disrupt road traffic on Bengaluru-Mysuru highway and train services.

An order issued by the Assistant Commissioner of Mandya sub-division in Mandya district has declared the region between Nidaghatta in Maddur and Tubinakere in Mandya taluk as restricted area between 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday to prevent any disruption to movement of traffic on the Bengaluru-Mysuru National Highway 275 and train services operating in the area.

The orders issued on Thursday have banned gathering of more than five persons, use of loudspeakers, carrying of weapons, shouting of slogans, and issuing inflammatory speeches. People violating the ban orders will be booked under Section 188 of the IPC.

The ban orders in Mandya sub-division come after calls were given by various organisations to take out a bike rally in Maddur and block trains in Gejjalagere and Mandya.

Metro train services to be curtailed today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), will curtail metro train services on 29 September full day between K.R. Pura and Garudacharpalya also in view of Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) inspection between Challaghatta and Kengeri.

However, the train service will be available only between Garudacharpalya and Whitefield (Kadugodi) BMRCL stated in a release on Thursday. There will be no changes of train on Green Line.

Purple Line

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, a release stated, Namma Metro services will not be available from Kengeri to Mysuru Road metro station for the whole day.

However, train services will be available between Baiyappanahalli and Mysuru Road stations and between Whitefield (Kadugodi) and Krishnarajapura stations.

Nipah virus outbreak: What are monoclonal antibodies?

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the behaviour of antibodies produced by the immune system to protect against diseases and foreign substances

FAQ

Priyali Prakash

A health worker leaves the Isolation ward where patients under observation for Nipah are accommodated at the Government Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode on Tuesday. K. RAGESH

The story so far: Last week, India reached out to Australia to procure monoclonal antibody doses to combat the Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala. India is expecting 20 more doses soon, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) head Dr. Rajiv Bahl has said.

The virus has killed two people so far and has infected at least five others in the Kozhikode district. The current Nipah outbreak is Kerala's fourth since 2018.

India currently has the antibody doses available for ten persons only. Addressing the press, Dr. Bahl said that no one in the country has been administered the dosage so far since it needs to be given at an early stage of infection.

What is a monoclonal antibody?

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the behaviour of antibodies produced by the immune system to protect against diseases and foreign substances.

An antibody attaches itself to an antigen - a foreign substance, usually a disease-causing molecule - and helps the immune system eliminate it from the body.

Monoclonal antibodies are specifically designed to target certain antigens.

Niels K. Jerne, Georges J.F. Köhler and César Milstein were awarded the medicine Nobel Prize in 1984 for their work on the "the principle for production of monoclonal antibodies".

What is m102.4?

According to research published in *The Lancet journal of Infectious Diseases*, m102.4 is a "potent, fully human" monoclonal antibody that neutralises Hendra and Nipah viruses, both outside and inside of living organisms. The antibody has passed phase-one clinical trials – which means that researchers tested it with a relatively small number of people to estimate the right dose of treatment that also doesn't cause side effects.

As of now, the drug is used on a 'compassionate use' basis – a treatment option that allows the use of an unauthorised medicine under strict conditions among people where no other alternative and/or satisfactory authorised treatment is known to be possible and where patients cannot enter clinical trials for various reasons.

The m102.4 monoclonal antibody was first developed by Dr. Christopher Broder and his team at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in Bethesda, Maryland, with help from the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

How do monoclonal antibodies work?

Monoclonal antibodies are specifically engineered and generated to target a disease. They are meant to attach themselves to the specific disease-causing antigen. An antigen is most likely to be a protein.

For instance, most successful monoclonal antibodies during the pandemic were engineered to bind to the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The binding prevented the protein from exercising its regular functions, including its ability to infect other cells.

Dr. Köhler and Dr. Milstein, who established a generation of monoclonal antibodies for use in humans in 1975, used this principle to describe the hybridoma - a fusion cell made up of B cells (white blood cells that produce antibodies) and myeloma cells (abnormal plasma cells). These hybrid cells allowed the researchers to produce a single antibody clone, which came to be known as a monoclonal antibody.

The initial technology of producing hybridoma in mice was unsustainable. Today, these antibodies are made using recombinant DNA technology. Here, the gene that codes for the monoclonal antibody's binding region – also known as the variable region – is isolated from a B cell or synthesised in the laboratory. This antibody is then introduced into a host cell, often a bacterium or a mammalian cell, using recombinant DNA technology (which involves manipulating DNA material outside an organism to obtain specific traits or characteristics). The host cells, called bioreactors, produce large quantities of the monoclonal antibodies which are extracted, purified, and readied for use as desired.

> Monoclonal antibody was first developed by Dr. Christopher Broder at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in Bethesda, US

Glycoproteins are one of the major components of viruses that cause diseases in humans. According to a research paper published in October 2020, the m102.4 monoclonal antibody binds itself to the immunodominant receptor-binding glycoprotein of the Nipah virus, potentially neutralising it.

Phase one clinical trial

The results of a successful clinical safety trial conducted with 40 volunteers between March 2015 and June 2016, for monoclonal antibody m102.4, were published in 2020. Led by Geoffery Playford of Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, Australia, it was the first in-human, randomised, controlled phase-one study of the safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of m102.4.

The study was double blind, which means neither the participants nor the researchers knew who received the antibody and who received the placebo. The researchers created eight cohorts of five participants each. In each cohort, six people were randomly administered m102.4 of varying doses, while the remaining two received the placebo.

The most common treatment-related side-effect was headache, reported by 12 of 30 participants in the combined m102.4 group, and three from the pooled placebo group. No deaths or severe effects, which could have caused the study to be discontinued, were noted.

The results of the trial showed that single and repeated doses of m102.4 were well-tolerated and safe, and invoked no adverse responses from the immune systems of participants.

The monoclonal antibody m102.4 for Dr. Playford's clinical trial was manufactured by the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) at the University of Queensland.

Regulatory status

In his press conference, ICMR chief Dr. Bahl mentioned that "no opportunity presented itself to take the research forward" after the first phase of trial.

According to the Queensland Health Department, the antibody has been available in Queensland State since 2010 to treat Hendra virus infections, and has been shared by USU and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

As of 2020, it had been administered to 13 people on compassionate grounds in Queensland. Hendra virus is on the World Health Organisation's list of priority diseases requiring urgent attention for research and development of therapeutics – as is the Nipah virus.

Both Hendra and Nipah viruses are bat-borne Paramyxoviridae - a family of viruses that contain a single-strand RNA of negative-sense genome, similar to the ones that cause diseases like measles, influenza etc., and replicate within infected cells.

(priyali.prakash@thehindu.co.in)

An alley is fumigated to prevent dengue. GETTY IMAGES

Understanding the ABCs of dengue for control and better management

Serena Josephine M.

Dengue season is here. While prevention is key, seeking medical help on time once you notice symptoms, prompt diagnosis and treatment, and understanding warning signs play a crucial role in management of the vector-borne disease.Data updated till September 17 on the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control website shows the country reported 94,198 cases of dengue and 91 deaths. Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra reported the most cases.

"We look for classic symptoms. If they seek treatment during the acute viremic phase - one to three days, we do not admit them," says E. Theranirajan, dean, Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH), in Chennai. "We inform them of the warning signs and when to seek medical help. If they come to the hospital at the end of the third or fourth day, we admit them unless they are stable or have primary dengue. This is because day four to six is the critical phase in dengue and they need to be closely monitored. Their vital signs and haematocrit levels are closely watched," he adds.

In dengue, day one to three are called the acute viremic phase, while day four to six are the critical phase followed by recovery, he added.

What are the symptoms? Three days of continuous fever, with temperatures more than 101 degree Fahrenheit - a high grade fever that does not respond to routine paracetamol - is one the main symptoms, he said. "Patients will experience varying levels of headache, severe myalgia and maculopapular rash that typically begins on the third day," he said.

Fever and two of the following nausea and vomiting, rash, aches and pains, positive tourniquet test, leukopenia, any warning signs and laboratory confirmed dengue - are probable dengue. The warning signs are intense abdominal pain or tenderness, persistent vomiting, clinical fluid accumulation, mucosal bleed, lethargy and restlessness, liver enlargement and laboratory findings of increase in haematocrit with concurrent rapid decrease in platelet count, he explains.

Dr. Theranirajan, who is a paediatrician, says parents must take children to the healthcare facility if they notice any of the following poor appetite for food or water, less urine than usual, abdominal pain, bleeding in any form, inability to sit up or dizziness in older children, irritability, drowsiness, restlessness and if the feeling of being unwell does not subside. "Frequent vomiting during the first one or two days of fever and low white cell blood count on day two are pointers for early diagnosis of dengue fever," he added. He stressed early recognition of the disease and careful monitoring of IV fluids from the beginning. Healthcare personnel need to familiarise themselves with the three main demarcated phases of dengue febrile, critical and recovery.

Day one to three are the acute viremic phase, day four to six are the critical phase followed by recovery

"In the critical phase, there will be capillary leakage during which fluid collects in the pleural space around the lungs, abdomen and liver," he said.

He added: "The critical phase is the golden period. There needs to be close monitoring on fluid management. Haematocrit level is the best indicator to assess hydration status. Platelet levels fall as the dengue virus produces anti-platelet antibodies. Dengue has no specific treatment but a supportive line of management."

Absence of fever for 24 hours without the use of antipyretics, return of appetite that dwindled on the fourth or fifth day, visible improvement in the clinical picture, stable haematocrit, three days after recovery from shock, platelet count greater than 50,000 and rising are criteria for discharge.

PREVENTION: Dengue is spread through the bite of Aedes aegypti. "It usually bites from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; hence it is important to wear full-sleeved clothes, use mosquito nets and repellants. Check for mosquito breeding sources once every week, clear water stagnations and check the refrigerators trays," he added.

Do not take antibiotics, steroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and intramuscular injections, he said.

(serena.m@thehindu.co.in)

At least 100 million in India need spectacles but have no access

R. Sujatha

In February this year the World Health Assembly, in its meeting, resolved to implement an "integrated people-centred eye care" project.

A long-standing demand of ophthalmologists and optometrists has been addressed, Kovin Naidoo, honorary professor of optometry at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, said.

According to the WHO at least 2.2 billion people function with compromised eyesight and at least a billion of these were preventable with access to eye care. Around 90% of those with vision impairment or blindness live in low- and middle-income countries.

While vision impairment led to an estimated productive loss of US $ 410.7 billion globally, ensuring access to eye care and treatment for all would cost an estimated US $ 24.8 billion, the WHO fact sheet states.

Mr. Naidoo recalled that in the early 2000s when the idea was discussed with WHO officials, it was "believed that it wasn't something that needed to be integrated into the calculation of vision impairment and blindness," he said at the inaugural of the three-day fourth international conference on 'Eye health in a changing world' organised by the India Vision Institute, a non-governmental organisation. Alexandre Montague, global CEO of Hoya Vision Care, which sponsored the conference said a researcher in a Shanghai hospital, nearly a fortnight ago, told him "that within the last 20 years the average onset of myopia (inability to see distant objects clearly) in China moved from 10.5 years to 7.5 years. Within 20 years myopia onset moved up by three years. The data shows that 50% of the population would be myopic by 2050."

In India, where over 100 million people may not have access to eye care and glasses, it is imperative to take measures, said out Vinod Daniel, chief executive officer of IVI. Once the country adopts the WHO's Specs 2030 everything will change, he said. "We are excited with the programme as the biggest change is the reporting of numbers once the WHO assembly adopts it. From a government perspective they did not have to report the number of people who have received spectacles just as they now report the number of cataracts," he said.

It is this requirement that the country must ensure better sight for all the diagnosed persons within six years that Hoya proposes to address. The company, which had its genesis in Hoya, a town to the west of Tokyo, Japan, has inaugurated a facility in Sriperumbudur around 50 km from Chennai to create spectacles.

Hoya Vision Care plans to identify children who could progress to myopia and arrest the progression of the condition. GETTY IMAGES

Mr. Montague says the aim is to educate people on the need to wear glasses, and improve the quality of eye care as well. "India has been identified as one of our strategic markets and there is a huge amount of value we can bring to the market. We are very happy with the infrastructure, access to electricity, water and quality of eye care professionals here (in Chennai)," he said. The company had set up a facility earlier but shut down nearly 10 years ago.

He said the plan is to identify children who could progress to myopia and arrest the progression, working with optometrists to identify children who can be provided spectacles.

Rajeev Prasad, President, Asia Pacific Council of Optometry, pointed out that with just 26,000 registered ophthalmologists in India the job falls on optometrists to provide the necessary intervention.

The need for intervention must begin early, the optometrist said. Earlier five to eight percent of children had vision problems it rose to 25% post-COVID. "Our own thinking has changed. Earlier we asked children to maintain a 10 ft distance to watch TV. Now, post-COVID we are buying gadgets for children for online classes. We are trying to make sure with the help of our partner that children do not go unnoticed, undetected and uncorrected," he said.

East and South Asian countries such as Taiwan, Korea, China, Singapore and Japan have been seeing a significant increase in myopia. "Every second person wears glasses. That is where WHO comes into the picture. It is predicted that half of the world population will wear glasses," he said.

(sujatha.r@thehindu.co.in)

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74-year-old beaten up for feeding stray dogs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 74-year-old retired engineer with the Indian Navy was assaulted by his neighbour for feeding biscuits to stray dogs in Chokkanahalli in Bagaluru police station limits where he was living on Sunday.

The Injured Amarnath Chauhan is presently undergoing treatment at a private hospital and filed a complaint with the Bagaluru police on Sunday. Based on the complaint, the police have registered an FIR against the accused charging him for assault and criminal intimidation.

Mr. Chauhan said that he used to go on a morning walk everyday and feed the stray dogs. On Sunday morning too, he set out for walk and was feeding biscuits to the stray dogs.

The accused Chandrappa, staying in his neighbourhood, walked to him armed with a wooden log and attacked him. The accused even started shouting at him using unparliamentary words and warned him with dire consequences if he continued to feed the stray dogs. Mr. Chauhan with the help of passers-by admitted himself to a hospital for treatment.

Several animal right activists have condemned the incident and demanded the police to take strict action against the accused. However, four days after the case was registered, the police are yet to take any action against the accused.

Arun Prasad, city-based animal rights activist, said the Union government's Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, states that the community and people have to ensure food supply to stray dogs. The Supreme Court has also said relocation of stray dogs was not permissible. The State government and local administration should create awareness on this, he said.

Habitual offenders kill associate for revealing their identity to police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Basavanagudi police on Thursday arrested a gang of four for killing their associate for revealing their identity to the police while he was in their custody.

The accused identified as Kashif, Shabbir, Arman, and Shafiullah were part of the gang along with the deceased Arbaz, 26, involved in robbing mobile phones and valuables from people in and around the city. Few days ago, the Jayanagar police had picked up Arbaz in connection with a mobile robbery case for questioning, when he reportedly revealed the names of his associates.

The accused reportedly got to know about this and bided their time. After Arbaz was released and returned home, the accused went near his house on Khazi street in Basavanagudi and called him on the pretext of talking to him and stabbed him before fleeing the spot last Friday. Arbaz was taken to the hospital where he succumbed to his death. Basavanagudi police identified the accused and arrested them on Thursday.

Panel to draft SEP to be constituted soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to announce a new committee to draft the State Education Policy (SEP) in the next two days.

M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher and Technical Education, who met Mr. Siddaramaiah on Thursday said he flagged the issue of delay in constituting this committee and requested him to clear it soon. "He has promised to clear the file on Friday," he said.

18 experts

According to sources, the Higher Education Department and the Department of School Education and Literacy have recommended the names of 18 experts to be on the committee for the SEP.

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'Brand Bengaluru': Giving namma City a grand makeover

Bengaluru is known by two sobriquets -- Garden City and India's Silicon Valley. How does one ensure that the City lives up to both? How does one balance fast-paced development without destroying its spirit as the City of trees and lakes? That is the very idea behind Karnataka government's 'Brand Bengaluru' project.

This proposal is part of Karnataka government's ambitious plans for Bengaluru. It envisions giving a makeover to the State capital and providing a world-class facility to its citizens. 'Brand Bengaluru', spearheaded by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, envisions a City where pedestrian-friendly roads take centre stage, prioritising the safety and convenience of its residents.

Well-planned sidewalks, dedicated cycling lanes, and green spaces encourage active transportation and promote healthier lifestyles. Efficient transportation systems and smart traffic management ensure a faster and seamless commute, reducing congestion and travel times. Integrated public transportation networks, including buses and metro lines, provide convenient and accessible options for all residents are all part of the plan, making namma Bengaluru a world class city firmly rooted in its own identity.

In this regard, multiple meetings have been held with engineering consultancy firms, both domestic and international, over the past many weeks and have seen discussion of several designs and modalities. The State Government signed an agreement with a Canadian organisation for suggestions to build the city.

About 200 engineers from the World Design Organisation (WDO) will study and provide suggestions on the infrastructure including roads, flyovers, footpaths and junctions.

For a healthy Bengaluru

The Karnataka Government aspires to implement the programmes to offer best health services to citizens of Bengaluru too. This was laid out during the conference on the topic 'Healthy Bengaluru' held under 'Brand Bengaluru' initiative, one of the many such being held.

The main aim of the programmes are to increase investments in health services, to offer class facilities for emergency health services, collaboration with partners under CSR, to implement a 'Healthy Bengaluru' system in turn to provide standard health systems.

The Government is also improving facilities at primary health centres (PHCs) and other hospitals that come under BBMP. In the City, 232 Namma Clinics are operational and to strengthen the services and to increase the working hours in some of these Clinics already 'morning 8 to night 8' working hours are implemented.

In future, in all Namma Clinics working hours will be extended. Easy access and affordable health services to Bengalureans are on the agenda. Many more such sector-specific projects are underway.

People's participation

In a radical new idea, citizens' participation has been sought in building 'Brand Bengaluru'. People have been asked to send in suggestions through offline or online mode. And the response has been overwhelming.

Over 70,000 suggestions have come from public on vital issues pertaining to 'Brand Bengaluru' which are being closely looked into by the Deputy Chief Minister personally, who is also in-charge of Bengaluru Development. The broad themes under which suggestions have come include -- Transportable Bengaluru, Green Bengaluru, Swachh Bengaluru, People-Friendly Bengaluru, Healthy Bengaluru, Tech Bengaluru, Water Safe Bengaluru and Educational Bengaluru.

With the nodal agencies having been constituted and stake-holders appointed, the aim is to translate the slogan - 'Bengaluru towards Progress: People towards Peace & Tranquility' - into a reality. The Deputy Chief Minister has given directions to collate the suggestions that continue to pour in and submit a report.

Industry leaders' part

Parallelly and equally importantly, meetings with leaders from various fields and important heads of industry have been held, seeking suggestions on how to carry forward this grand and ambitious idea. So the idea Brand Bengaluru is moving forward with push from both ordinary citizens of Bengaluru as well as corporate leaders who are stakeholders in the City's development.

Robust growth through effective urban planning

Bengaluru has an ever-expanding population, with people from across India and world flocking to it seeking educational and job opportunities. With a commendable IT infrastructure, more and more people are planning to shift here every single day. It has been noted that those who shift to Bengaluru for a job or educational opportunity, never return, falling in love with the weather and the overall environment of the City.

Considering such a trend, the Government has a plan to develop Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to deliver quality education so as to lessen the pressure on Bengaluru.

In addition, to serve different facilities to the increasing population the city, under 'Brand Bengaluru', it is proposed to effectively manage garbage disposal, water supply, and sanitation. Bengaluru envisions itself as a global leader, attracting international collaborations and investments. It embraces cultural diversity, promoting cross-cultural exchange and fostering a global outlook, positioning itself as a cosmopolitan city on the world stage. With a focus on fostering start-ups and promoting innovation, Bengaluru encourages a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship.

Incubators, accelerators, and supportive policies create an ecosystem that nurtures and supports innovative ideas and their transformation into successful businesses.

Priority areas

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said 'Brand Bengaluru' would transform the city. The priority would be traffic management, solid waste management, proper utilisation of public places, flood management, and public health, among others. "We will develop suburban townships in Devanahalli, Nelamangala, Hoskote, Doddaballapur and Magadi. These areas will have proper connectivity with road and rail networks to help those visiting Bengaluru outskirts for various purposes daily.

The idea is to decongest Bengaluru city. Total stretch of Metro train network in Bengaluru at present 69.66 kms. About 6.1 lakh commuters travel by it daily. By 2026, 'Namma Metro' will have 175.55 km network in Bengaluru. Today, Bengaluru's Metro network stands second in the country.

Solutions to challenges

The Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) recently came up with a report regarding Outer Ring Road (ORR) for Brand Bengaluru. The report emphasises the existing challenges proposing immediate, short-term and long-term solutions to traffic congestion, metro construction and various other concerns. The ORR plays an important role in Bengaluru's economic growth. It serves as an IT corridor generating employment, improving connectivity and drives real estate development. The current challenges of ORR include traffic congestion, infrastructure breakdown, insufficient public transportation and others. Already, the organisation has taken initiatives to address traffic and pedestrian management, employees transportation programmes and awareness campaigns. The report suggests the government to effectively manage the traffic during metro construction and to adhere to completion timeline.

ORRCA
Outer Ring Road Companies Association

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of Indians among U.S. visa applicants in 2023

10 in percentage. About 20% of the U.S. student visa applicants and 65% of all H&L-category (employment) visa applicants are Indians. PTI

Increase in mineral production in July 2023 in India

10.7 in percentage. India's index of mineral production of the mining and quarrying sector was at 111.9, according to Indian Bureau of Mines. PTI

Silver jubilee of Google, search giant recalls humble origin

25 years. Google celebrated the occasion with a special doodle that depicted the journey from its humble origin in a rented garage in the U.S. to becoming a global search giant. PTI

Number of Indian universities featured in *Times* world rankings

91 A record-high number of Indian universities made it to the World University Rankings with the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru being the top performer. PTI

Students from Jharkhand residential school who fell sick

110 School students from Pakur in Jharkhand, fell sick, alleging that a lizard was found in the food. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Inside the digital world of cookies

Are there privacy concerns? Can inadequate security of cookies pose a risk to users? Which privacy regulations have had an impact on how they are used on websites? How does India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act affect the use of cookies? What potential downside can their excessive use have?

EXPLAINER

Sanhita Chauriha

The story so far:

The digital world of cookies plays a significant role in any online experience. In the digital realm, cookies help in personalisation and user convenience. These unassuming bits of code, stored on a device when one visits websites, play a pivotal role in shaping any online experience.

How do cookies work?

Think of cookies as the key to a secure, members-only club. Just like the club bouncer recognises regular patrons and grants them seamless access, cookies remember a person's login information on websites. This means you do not have to repeatedly enter the credentials every time you revisit a site, making it convenient for use.

On websites like Amazon, cookies remember customer's previous interactions; from products they have browsed to purchases they have made.

Armed with this knowledge, Amazon serves up tailored product recommendations and content, making the online shopping feel like a personalised boutique experience.

Consider an enchanted grocery cart that never empties, no matter how many times you step away.

Online shopping carts, fuelled by cookies, offer a similar enchantment.

You can add items to the cart, leave the website, and return later to find all the selections waiting patiently, ready for checkout.

Platforms like Facebook and Google use cookies to track online behaviour, ensuring the ads you encounter align with your preferences.

While cookies offer undeniable advantages, there is a flip side to considering privacy concerns and the potential for data misuse.

Digital traces: Platforms like Facebook and Google use cookies to track online behaviour, ensuring ads users encounter align with preferences. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

What are the types of cookies?

Session cookies are temporary cookies like post-it notes for websites. They are stored in the computer's memory only during the browsing session. Once you close the browser, they vanish. Session cookies help websites remember the actions as you navigate, like items in a shopping cart.

Persistent cookies are the digital equivalent of bookmarks. They stay on the device after your browsing session ends. Persistent cookies remember the login information, language preferences, and even the ads you have interacted with.

They are handy for a more personalised web experience.

Secure cookies are only sent over encrypted connections, making them safer from prying eyes. Secure cookies are often used for sensitive data like login credentials.

Third-party cookies are similar—they come from a domain other than the one you are visiting.

They are often used for tracking and advertising purposes, which can be both useful and, at times, intrusive.

What are the uses of cookies?

Cookies serve a multitude of purposes in the online world.

Firstly, they act as digital ID cards, aiding in user authentication by allowing websites to recognise and keep you logged in during the visit.

Secondly, they foster a sense of personalisation, recalling your preferences such as language choice or website theme. Thirdly, they function as the digital equivalent of a persistent shopping cart, ensuring that items you have added online remain there when you return.

Additionally, cookies facilitate website owners in gathering invaluable analytics data about user interactions, enabling them to make enhancements and customise content.

Finally, cookies play a pivotal role in targeted advertising, as advertisers use them to display ads that align with a person's interest and browsing history, making online shopping more enticing. Navigating the world of cookies is not all sweetness; but it comes with its set of challenges.

What are the challenges associated?

Firstly, privacy concerns arise as cookies could track your online behaviour, which, while often harmless, can sometimes encroach upon your digital privacy. Secondly, security risks loom when cookies are inadequately secured, opening doors for cybercriminals to pilfer the personal information. Thirdly, the era of user consent has dawned, thanks to privacy regulations like the General Data Protection Regulation and The California Consumer Privacy Act, necessitating websites to seek your approval before deploying certain cookie types, resulting in those somewhat irksome pop-ups and prompts. India's newly enacted Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 now necessitates websites to acquire explicit consent from users prior to collecting or processing their personal data via cookies. In contrast to earlier regulations that often accepted implied consent as satisfactory, the updated law highlights the significance of transparent and well-informed consent. Fourthly, third-party cookies have sparked debates, prompting many web browsers to curb their usage to safeguard user privacy. Lastly, the data deluge generated by the multitude of cookies can potentially clog the browser, leading to a sluggish web experience.

Conclusively, cookies are both sweet and complex. They play a crucial role in enhancing your online experience, but they also come with privacy and security challenges. As the digital landscape continues to evolve, so will the way cookies will be used and regulated. So, the next time you enjoy a warm, gooey chocolate chip cookie, remember the digital cookies that make your online adventures more personalised, even if they sometimes leave a few crumbs behind.

(Sanhita Chauriha is with the Law and Technology Vertical of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

THE GIST

- Cookies can track online behaviour, leading to privacy concerns about digital privacy. Inadequate security of cookies can create opportunities for cybercriminals to steal personal information.
- The Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 in India mandates explicit consent for collecting or processing personal data via cookies. The updated law emphasises the need for transparent and well-informed consent.
- Third-party cookies have sparked debates, resulting in web browsers limiting their usage to protect user privacy. The excessive use of cookies can slow down web browsers, affecting the user experience.
- Cookies enhance online experiences but pose privacy and security challenges. Their usage and regulation are evolving in the digital landscape.

What is the 'Five Eyes' intelligence alliance?

How does the Five Eyes intelligence alliance maintain cooperation and closeness among member countries? Why was the 'Stone Ghost' chosen as the secret collective database for sharing intelligence?

Sumeda

The story so far:

The recent allegations by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau linking the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil to the Indian government have put the spotlight on the intelligence-sharing alliance 'Five Eyes', which is believed to have provided the information that "helped" Canada.

Who are the 'Five Eyes'?

The 'Five Eyes' is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network of five countries, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S. It is both surveillance-based and tracks signals intelligence (SIGINT). Intelligence documents shared between the member countries are classified 'Secret–AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US Eyes Only,' which gave the group its title 'Five Eyes.' The alliance between the U.S. and the U.K. evolved around the Second World War to counter the Cold War Soviet threat. The two countries, which had successfully deciphered German and Japanese codes during the war, forged a collaboration to share intelligence related to signals such as radio, satellite and internet communications. In 1946, the alliance was formalised through an agreement for cooperation in signals intelligence.

The treaty called the British-U.S. Communication Intelligence Agreement, or BRUSA (now known as the UKUSA Agreement), was signed between the State-Army-Navy Communication Intelligence Board (STANCIB) of the U.S. and the London Signal Intelligence Board (SIGINT) of Britain. Its scope was limited to "communication intelligence matters only" related to the "unrestricted" exchange of intelligence products in six areas: a collection of traffic; acquisition of communication documents and equipment; traffic analysis; cryptanalysis; decryption and translation; and acquisition of information regarding communication organisations, practices, procedures, and equipment. The arrangement was later extended to 'second party' countries –Canada joined in 1948, while Australia and New Zealand became part of the alliance in 1956.

Though the intelligence alliance came together in the 1940s, it remained a top secret for long. The then Australian PM Gough Whitlam did not know about the existence of BRUSA, regarded as one of the most secret agreements, until 1973, according to a recent article in the *Journal of Cold War Studies*. In fact the text of the agreement was first officially released in public after over 60 years in 2010.

How does the network work?

Initially, the partners are assigned respective SIGINT mandates. A Canadian intelligence officer writes in a military journal (2020) that the U.S. is responsible for Russia, northern China, most of Asia and Latin America; Australia covers southern China, Indo-China and its close neighbours, such as Indonesia; the U.K. is in charge in Africa and west of the Urals within the former Soviet Union; and New Zealand is responsible for the Western Pacific, while Canada handles the polar regions of Russia.

The goalpost of the Five Eyes, however, has shifted following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of new global challenges like terrorism and the growing influence of China.

The Five Eyes have become involved in ocean and maritime surveillance, scientific and defence intelligence analysis, medical intelligence, geospatial intelligence, counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and the continuous sharing of intelligence products via a secret collective database known as 'Stone Ghost', the Canadian officer notes.

What are the concerns?

There have been several concerns regarding the privacy, security and methods of working of the intelligence alliance, which remained shrouded in mystery for long.

The alliance was embroiled in a major controversy in 2013 following the disclosure of classified documents by Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor. Mr. Snowden described the network as a "supranational intelligence organisation that doesn't answer to the laws of its own countries."

THE GIST

- The Five Eyes intelligence alliance, consists of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. They share intelligence through a secret collective database known as 'Stone Ghost.'
- In September 2016, the Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review Council was established as a non-political intelligence oversight and review entity among member countries. Its objectives include exchanging views on mutual interests, sharing best practices, exploring cooperation, and engaging with non-Five Eyes countries.
- There are concerns related to the privacy, security, and operational methods of the intelligence alliance.

Coffee Board identifies two lakh acres of land to expand cultivation

The board, in association with ISRO, has satellite-mapped suitable areas for coffee growing in the northeastern States, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The Coffee Board of India is in the process of facilitating the expansion of coffee cultivation beyond the southern parts of the country.

The board, with the help of the Indian Space Research Organisation, has identified and satellite mapped over 2 lakh acres of tribal occupied land in the fringes of forests in the northeastern states, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, said K.G. Jagadeesha, CEO and Secretary, Coffee Board here on Thursday.

Karnataka single-handedly produced over 70% of India's coffee, while most of the rest was farmed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Prasad. "The south region has not much scope left to increase areas under coffee production. However, in terms of shade-grown coffee with high quality and speciality will still be in the southern parts,'' he added.

According to Dr. Jagadeesha, the Coffee Board has asked tribal and other farmers in the North Eastern region, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, to ready the land by planting the right kind of shade trees to create the right ecosystem better suitable for coffee farming.

Visitors going around the stalls at the World Coffee Conference in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

"We expect these new farms to be ready and start harvesting within the next 10 years," he added.

Addressing a media conference at the conclusion of the 5th World Coffee Conference here at Bangalore Palace, he said the main objective of this four-day world coffee exposition was to discuss challenges faced by the global coffee industry, mostly the farming community and find long-term solutions to their problems throughout the value chain from bean to cup.

Coffee collaboration

Some 347 formal business-to-business meetings were held in the last four days between September 25 and 28, while over 1,500 informal and non-scheduled such meetings have taken place at WCC 2023.

"A lot of fruitful discussions have happened at WCC 2023. Hundreds of business leads have been created, and many of these will result in business collaborations that will last over 30 to 40 years," elaborated Dr. Jagadeesha, adding, "Coffee was a long-lasting engagement. Domestic and as well as international coffee players have had a lot of fruitful discussions, and they have shared incredible responses with us."

Overall, 2,600 delegates, including 323 international delegates, participated in the conference. It also saw 12,522 business visitors and a large number of individual visitors.

India on global coffee map

By hosting the World Coffee Conference, India is now well placed in the global coffee market, as the International Coffee Organization and the rest of the coffee world recognise the country's unique contribution as a key producer of the world's best coffees.

"We have now arrived on the Global Map. Our presence is felt very strongly in the world markets. Our WCC connection will further increase India's image as a producer of some of the finest coffees and a lead player in the vibrant coffee sector,'' the Coffee Board CEO stated.

Better premiums

In 2000, Indian coffee fetched 10 to 15% less than what was the prevailing market prices in London and New York coffee exchanges. However, today, Indian coffees are able to command a 15 to 20% premium on prevailing market prices.

"Nobody gets more premium than Indian coffees except Colombian coffees. Now, if we truly join a global colleague league, we will be able to ask for even better pricing because our coffees will have better standing and branding in global markets,'' he anticipated.

India never got its due recognition for growing such sustainable and high-quality coffees. Therefore, WCC is definitely going to open doors in that respect that India is a country that grows the world's finest coffees in a more sustainable manner, as per Dr. Jagadeesha.

Learning from experts

Hundreds of young working baristas, aspirants and cafe entrepreneurs have benefited from training courses, skill-building workshops and demos conducted by 24 global experts at WCC.

"If our baristas have to pick talent and best practices from global experts from leading coffee-consuming geographies, they have to spend around $3.5 lakh, including their airfare. The same training they received at a token fee of ₹3,000 at WCC," he elaborated.

INBRIEF

Disruption in power supply

There will be disruption in power supply on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in areas serviced from 66/11 kV Manyatha Tech Park MUSS in view of carrying out maintenance work. According to a notification from East Circle, Bescom, the areas that will be affected are: Coffee Board Layout, Mariyanapalya, Shree Bhagyshree Layout, Rachenahalli, Amarjyothi Layout, Fathima Layout, Anjanadri Layout and surrounding areas.

Free cleft lip surgeries

Kinder Hospital in Bengaluru, in collaboration with Operation Smile and the Inga Health Foundation, will offer free cleft lip and palate surgeries to children in Karnataka from October 7 to 15. This initiative aims to help children born with these conditions overcome social stigma and access a normal life. A team of medical volunteers, including doctors, nurses, and therapists, will conduct the surgeries with a focus on remote areas in Karnataka.

Hindi Diwas observed

The Department of Hindi, Jyoti Nivas College, Bengauru, in collaboration with Canara Bank, Regional Office, Bengaluru East, observed Hindi Diwas on September 20. Deputy General Manager Abhay Kumar and Assistant General Manager Nalini of the Koramangala Branch were the chief guests. Mr. Abay Kumar enlightened the students about Hindi's growing role in information technology aided by voice controlled devises and Artificial Intelligence. The intention of the event was to induce awareness of Hindi language among the students. On the occasion, certificates were bestowed upon students who secured the first, second and third positions in self-composed poetry, story writing, and elocution competitions, the college in a release said.

State govt. to probe alleged irregularities in BMS Trust

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will soon constitute a committee to conduct an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in BMS Trust that runs prominent educational institutions, including one of the leading engineering colleges in the State.

In a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday with Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar, it has been decided to constitute a committee headed by a senior IAS officer to conduct an inquiry into the alleged irregularities, sources said.

Dr. Sudhakar flagged the issue with the Chief Minister following several complaints, sources said.

Former Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy had raised the issue in the Assembly and had accused former Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan of entering into a "quid pro quo" to clear a file allowing entrepreneur P. Dayananda Pai's appointment as life trustee of BMS Educational Trust (BMSET). Mr. Kumaraswamy blamed Mr. Ashwath Narayan of allowing a public charitable trust to be converted into a private one.

The BMSET, which runs the BMS institutions in Bengaluru, was formed in 1957 by B.S. Narayan, the son of B.M. Srinivasaiah.

Low-key 'bhoomi puja' held for RGUHS campus in Ramanagara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A low-key bhoomi puja ceremony for Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Science (RGUHS) campus, at Archakarahalli, Ramanagara, was held on Thursday.

Amidst controversy over shifting Kengal Hanumanthaiah Medical College from the proposed campus of RGUHS, Ramanagara, to Kanakapura, which is the constituency of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, only Ramanagara Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain conducted the ceremony in the absence of Mr. Shivakumar.

However, this is the fifth bhoomi puja programme for the RGUHS campus construction work since 2007. Previously, during the previous BJP government, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had laid the foundation stone on March 28, 2023.

The shifting of Kengal Hanumanthaiah Medical College from the proposed campus of RGUHS Ramanagara to Kanakapura has sparked a controversy. Ramanagara town even observed a bandh on September 8, over the issue and former Chief Minister H.D. Kuamaraswamy has severely opposed the shifting of the medical college to Kanakapura.

The issue has taken a legal turn. Kengal Hanumanthaiah Medical College Horata Samiti and farmers who lost their land for the university campus have now decided to file a PIL in the High Court against shifting the college. O"A dream of 15 years has now come true. The construction of RGUHS campus will go on as per plan," Mr. Iqbal Hussain said, claiming even the medical college will come up on the same campus. However, the State government not only announced that the college will be shifted to Kanakapura in the budget Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented in July but also issued a Government Order confirming the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, SEP. 29
RISE 06:09 SET 18:11
RISE 18:17 SET 05:51

SATURDAY, SEP. 30
RISE 06:09 SET 18:10
RISE 19:01 SET 06:48

SUNDAY, OCT. 01
RISE 06:09 SET 18:10
RISE 19:46 SET 07:45

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

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THE HINDU
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BBP to remain closed today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the bandh call and foreseeing the possibility of inconvenience to visitors to Bannerghatta Biological Park, it will remain closed on Friday. The zoo, safari and butterfly park will be closed. However, all the units of BBP will remain open for the public on October 3.

Rescheduled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The II and IV semester degree examinations conducted by Bangalore University and Bengaluru City University scheduled to be held on Friday, have been postponed. BU will hold the exam on September 30 and BCU on October 4.

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(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
TENDER NOTICE No.
OHE-CN-DYCEE-23-24-13-196
Dated : 25.09.2023
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / OHE, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.
Name of the work: OHE Modification in connection with the PSR relaxation work at Magnasite Junction station in Salem Division of Southern Railway. Tender Value : ₹ 45,99,843.07; Tender closing date and time : 20.10.2023 at 15.00 Hrs.
For more details visit www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client Mrs.Shilpa Raju Mudali Gowda W/o Mr. Raju Mudali Gowda is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from Mr.Biju Abraham S/o Late Mr. M.G. Abraham ; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims whatsoever along with documentary proof with the under mentioned advocate within 10 days from publication of this public notice, failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Vacant Site No.2, Measuring East to West on the Northern Side 69.25 Feet and on the Southern Side 86.5 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, and same adjoining a portion on Eastern Side totally measuring 105 Feet in all measuring 3220 Square Feet & Site No.3 Measuring East to West (69.25+43.5)/2 and North to South 40 Feet, measuring 2255 Square Feet, bearing BBMP Katha Sl. Nos.369 & 368 of Property No.116/2, Situated at Horamavu Agara Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Presently coming under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.25, and bounded on the:
East by : Railway Property, West by : 20 Feet Road, North by : Private Property, South by : Private Property.
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
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TIDEL Park Ltd invites e-tender for Licensing of TIDEL Park at Pattabiram, Chennai.
For more details and participation in the above e-tender, please visit the website https:/www.tntenders.gov.in/. Last date for online submission of duly filled in bid documents is 03.00 p.m. on 30.10.2023. TIDEL reserves the right to accept / reject anyone/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
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उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे G20
ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
मण्डल रेल प्रबन्धक इंजीनियरिंग उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई–निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है:– ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2023–24: 112, कार्य का नाम व स्थान: provision of PF Shelters and Hording at 15 stations (BME, BLT, JOR, MBNL, MTD, NOK, DSO, NGO, GOTN, DIA, DNA, SUJH, REN, PLC & RDRA) & provision of monumental flag 14 Stations (BLT, JOR, MBNL, MTD, NOK, DSO, NGO, GOTN, DIA, DNA, SUJH, REN, PLC & RDRA) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme over Jodhpur Division, अनुमानित लागत रुपये: ₹4,10,43,562.48, बयाने की राशि: ₹3,55,200.00, ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2023–24: 113, कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Left over work of Special Repairs to residential building in the section from BKN (ex) to MTD station under ADEN/Merta Road of Jodhpur Division., अनुमानित लागत रुपये: ₹1,85,48,543.71, बयाने की राशि: ₹2,42,800.00, ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2023–24: 114, कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Repair of bridges by doing epoxy grouting in bed blocks masonry abudments, pointing, painting, marking of DL, HFL, flooring, apron etc. under ADEN/MTD, अनुमानित लागत रुपये: ₹1,67,71,536.12, बयाने की राशि: ₹2,33,900.00, निविदा सूचना संख्या 112 to 114 of 2023–24 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 14.10.2023 & 16.10.2023 को 13.00 & 15 बजे तक है। वेबसाईट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई–निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है– www.ireps.gov.in. 1034-PR/23
हमें /NWRailways /NWRailways_ पर फॉलो करें

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed that my clients 1) Shri. NANJUNDAPPA KRISHNA MURTHY and 2) Ms. MAHIMA KRISHNA MURTHY, both residing at 504, Parvati Nagar CHS, Yari Road, Near Sai Ganesh Temple, Versova, Andheri West, MUMBAI-400061, intend to purchase the Apartment described in the Schedule hereunder written and have entered into an Agreement of Sale dated 27/09/2023, with its owners 1) Sri. Keshavaswamy D.K. Son of Doddaveeraiah K and 2) Smt. Hemavathi Byrappa, Wife of Sri. Keshavaswamy D.K., who have represented that they are the owners of the Schedule Property with uninhibited rights to alienate the same in any manner whatsoever.
Any person/s, Banks, Financial Institutions etc., having any right, title, interest, lien or claim by way of inheritance, mortgage, possession, sale, gift, charge, Agreement of Sale/Development or Partition or otherwise of whatsoever nature, with regard to the Schedule Property, is/are hereby called upon to notify with documentary evidence of his/her/their right, title or interest if any, to the below mentioned address, within 15 DAYS from the date of issue of this Public Notice. Any claim/s or objection/s raised and received after 15 days shall not bind on my clients and my clients shall proceed with the Purchase of the Schedule Property presuming that there are no claim/s or objection/s whatsoever over the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE
631/5877 Undivided share in the Property built on Site No.6, Khata No.583 of HASB Site No.7, Khata No.583, and Site No.68, Khta No.599 of HASB, situated at Murugeshpalya, and presently bearing Corporation No.93, Ashoka Avenue, K. R.Garden, Murugeshpalya, Bangalore, together with a residential Flat bearing No.FF-5, now bearing BBMP No.93/7, PID No.73-120-93/7, on the First Floor of the building known as 'JEEVANADI MAGNUS' with a super built up area of 1335 Square Feet including one car parking lot marked as FF-5 in the above Residential complex with all Civic Amenities thereon.
RAMESH D SHAH, ADVOCATE
No.1, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, Meenakshi Koil St., Cross, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560051.
E-mail:rame3003@gmail.com
Bangalore Date : 28/09/2023

J&K Bank Serving To Empower
Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited
Zonal Office
Mumbai
Extension w.r.t invitation of bids for lease basis or outright purchase of premises for Jayanagar Branch (Bengaluru)
With reference to the Tender Notice dated 05/09/2023, issued by this Office regarding the invitation of bids for lease basis or outright purchase of premises for Branch Jayanagar (Bengaluru), the last date for receipt of proposals complete in all respect as specified in tender document in the format prescribed by Bank is extended upto 11th of October 2023 (05:00 PM IST).
The relevant documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com or in person from Zonal Office Mumbai or Cluster Office Bangalore from 28/09/2023.
The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.
Dated: 26/09/2023 Zonal Head Mumbai
Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

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Last date for submission of online applications for the notifications is 28/10/2023.
M.P. Madhyam/112290/2023 MD

J&K Bank Serving To Empower
Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited
Zonal Office
Mumbai
Extension w.r.t invitation of bids for lease basis or outright purchase of premises for Koramangala Branch (Bengaluru)
With reference to the Tender Notice dated 05/09/2023, issued by this Office regarding the invitation of bids for lease basis or outright purchase of premises for Branch Koramangala (Bengaluru), the last date for receipt of proposals complete in all respect as specified in tender document in the format prescribed by Bank is extended upto 11th of October 2023 (05:00 PM IST).
The relevant documents and the terms and conditions relating to same can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com or in person from Zonal Office Mumbai or Cluster Office Bangalore from 28/09/2023.
The Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.
Dated: 26/09/2023 Zonal Head Mumbai
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CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

K. G. George.THULASI KAKKAT

K. G. George's on-screen women characters immortalise the late director's brilliance

Even decades after his last film, those memorable female characters continue to resonate, reminding viewers of the enduring impact of his cinematic legacy; he redefined Indian cinema by crafting complex, resilient, flawed and relatable female characters who challenged societal norms

Saraswathy Nagarajan

Auteur KG George was an iconoclast, a filmmaker who broke templates that had dominated Malayalam cinema in the sixties and early seventies. Walking ahead of his time, the nine-time winner of the Kerala State Film Award explored subjects, themes, characters and narratives that were new to Indian cinema. However, what made his films a class apart was his astonishing range of female characters.

His on-screen women were flawed. But, like the Japanese art form of Kintsugi that believes a repaired pot is stronger and increases in value, the women in George's films emerge stronger and more resilient as a result of their traumas and experiences. Their flaws made them raw, real, relatable and memorable, immortalising them in the hearts of cineastes. Broken, manipulated and dominated by a chauvinistic, patriarchal world, the women gaining strength and agency was a powerful expression in many of his movies.

Beginning of an era

Adaminte Vaariyellu Adam's Rib (1984), one of the best in his oeuvre, explores the psyche of three women from different socio-economic backgrounds. What binds the three women – Alice, Vasanthi and Ammini – is the oppression they are subjected to in a chauvinistic society. Whether it be the defiant Alice (Sreevidya), the dutiful Vasanthi (Suhasini) struggling hard to juggle her work at home and office, or the sexually exploited Ammini (Surya), all three are manipulated and abused by the men in their lives. It is only Ammini who seems to rebel and rise against the oppressive structure. Was he hinting at an uprising that is triggered by the impoverished masses who are not bound by the mores of middle-class morality and niceties?

Vasanthi's drudgery in the kitchen and at home was a first for Malayalam cinema, which still romanticises the gendered politics in the kitchen and the home. George turned his lens to reflect the mindless grind that women had to go through at home, no matter how accomplished they were.

'Domestic haven'

This theme of the home as a domestic haven was busted by George in several films. *Mattoral* (1988) stands out for its unfiltered view of the suffocating ambience and ennui in a typical middle-class home. Kaimal (Karamana Janardanan) is the quintessential provider. His home is the typical middle-class universe where his wife Susheela is a dutiful homemaker, looking after her husband and their two children, all at the cost of her dreams and desires.

The sheer boredom and silence in the marriage persuade viewers to look at the idealised home through a critical lens. Matters come to a head when Susheela elopes with Giri, a mechanic.

George, who passed away on Sunday at the age of 77, has given Indian cinema some of the most complex, intriguing women drawn from different strata in society. His cinematic world was filled with women with needs - emotional, physical, psychological and sexual. Not afraid to vocalise their needs or seek those outside the conventional societal norms of marriage and family, the women led the way for latter-day directors and scenarists to invest in reel women.

For instance, Annie (Sreevidya) in *Irakal* (1985), the only daughter in a harsh, feudal family in Central Kerala, is a deviant who seeks sexual favours from the men she fancies. Annie is neither apologetic nor embarrassed about her adventures. In fact, she exemplifies the selfish, rapacious family she belongs to.

The dark psychological thriller about a cold-blooded killer in the family has spawned many clones but none could match the brooding fear and suspense of the original that also became a metaphor for the dark days of the emergency.

Yavanika (1982), another jewel in George's filmography, is a work that is anchored on the abuse of a woman and its aftermath. Considered one of the finest investigative thrillers in Malayalam, Rohini (Jalaja) is as much celebrated as the galaxy of thespians such as Tabalist Ayyappan (Bharath Gopi), Balagopalan (Nedumudi Venu), Vavachan (Thilakan), Varunan (Jagathy Sreekumar) and Jacob Eeraly (Mammootty).

Defying stereotypes

From his early films, George, as a provocateur, created women who overthrew the stereotypical leading ladies of the time. Here was a director who did not sit on judgment on those women who were not willing to be deified by a patriarchal society. George's strength was his ability to delve into the character's psyche and sensitively trace the ties of human bondage. The complexities of marriage, family, society and life itself intrigued him and he explored it in many of his works without ever repeating a theme.

Perhaps that is why the characters remain alive even 25 years after the auteur made his last film, *Elavamkodu Desam* (1998). But George did not weave his movies around his women characters for films such as *Adaminte Vaariyellu*, *Lekhayude Maranam Oru Flashback* (1983) and *Ee Kanni Koodi* (1990). Many of his films featured powerful male protagonists, but the women were never marginalised. They strode the centre stage, moving the narrative forward with their decisions and choices.

George, a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India, opened his account as a director with *Swapnadanam* (1976), a finely crafted psychological story of his protagonist Dr. Gopinathan Nair's descent into insanity. Gopinathan's demanding wife Sumithra, played by a radiant Rani Chandra, is no saint but she is never made the scapegoat. Instead, he subtly depicts her loneliness, her anger and disappointment as her husband fails her as a companion. Sumitra was the first of the many angry women that George created on screen.

The arid arena of the marital bedroom became a space that George explored in some of his subsequent films such as *Mela, Irakal, Adaminte Variyellu, Lekhayude Maranam Oru Flashback*, etc. *Ulkkadal* (1978), one of the first campus films in Malayalam, featured Reena (Shobha) and Susanna (Jalaja), far removed from the narcissistic Sumithra. The constructs of religion did not influence their decisions when it came to falling in love.

In the case of Sharada (Anjali Naidu) in *Mela* (1980), it is her attraction for Vijayan (Mammootty), a stunt biker, that tarnishes her marriage with Govindankutty (Raghu), a dwarf working as a clown in the circus.

Body shaming and societal conventions of looks and physique subtly come into the picture but Sharada is never vilified. That was George acting as the perfect raconteur, letting his viewers take positions of right and wrong.

Graft and chicanery

However, in *Lekhayude Maranam Oru Flashback*, believed to be loosely inspired by the death of actor Shobha (incidentally, the heroine in *Ulkkadal*), the director shows up close the exploitation of women in the tinsel town and the murky deals and heartbreak behind the glitz and glitter. Both men and women play the game for money and fame.

It is the same thirst for money and name that fuels the corruption and one-upmanship in the delightful satire, *Panchavadi Palam* (1984), a masterpiece of the auteur. The men and women in the film are guilty of graft and chicanery.

"The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places," wrote Ernest Hemingway. That is also the story of the women in the late director's filmography. Forged in the crucible of life, George's women of steel immortalise the director too.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Some significant events occurred on September 29. Here is a quiz on observances, birthdays and everything else that happened on the day

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1

Nominated by the then U.S. President George W. Bush, this judge was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the United States on this day in 2005. Identify the judge.

QUESTION 2

With a history of strained ties, these two countries, geographically separated by _____ sea, established diplomatic relations on this day in 1972. Identify the sea and the two countries.

QUESTION 3

In 1962, this planetarium began operating as a research institution even though it was inaugurated only a year later. The propelling force behind the planetarium was a Calcutta-based industrialist and it was named after him. Identify the industrialist.

QUESTION 4

The theme for this year's World Heart Day, celebrated on September 29, is Use Heart, Know Heart. What was last year's theme?

QUESTION 5

This swimmer became the first Asian woman to complete a successful swim across the English Channel on this day. Identify her.

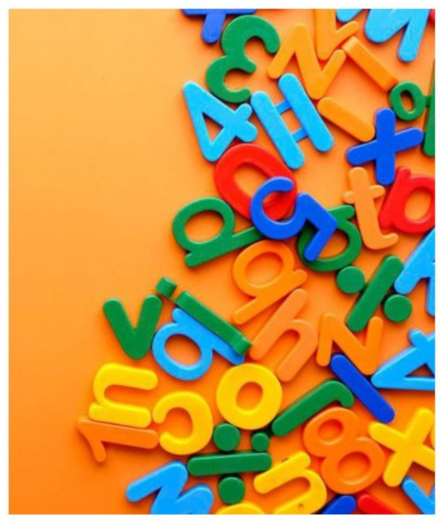
Visual Question:

Identify this person, born on September 29, 1961, who became the first woman to become Australia's Prime Minister. She was also the first woman to hold which post in the Australian Labour Party?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Name the country that awarded Lata Mangeshkar their highest civilian award. **Ans: France; The National Order of the Legion of Honour, the country's highest civilian award**
2. She composed several Marathi songs under a pseudonym. What was it? **Ans: Anandghan**
3. Two songs sung by Lata Mangeshkar, 'Tere Sang Pyar Main' and 'Wada Na Tod' were featured in this critically acclaimed Hollywood movie. **Ans: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind**
4. The only Malayalam song Lata Mangeshkar sang was a song composed by the Bengali music director Salil Chowdury. Name the song and the film in which it was featured. **Ans: 'Kadali Chenkadali' for the film *Nellu***
5. Name the first Indian to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England. **Ans: Ravi Shankar**
6. This actress was one among the first who had it written in her contracts that only Lata Mangeshkar would sing her songs in films. **Ans: Madhubala**
7. Visual: Lata Mangeshkar had a small feud with this man in the picture over the issue of royalty payments. Name him. **Ans: Mohammed Rafi**

Early Bird: K N Viswanathan



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. R. Syam, Malakpet, Hyderabad, wants to know the meaning of '*quid pro quo*'."

"It means 'something given or received in exchange for something else'. This is a latin expression. He was made Secretary as quid pro quo for the financial assistance he had given to the party. Her actions are based on the principle of *quid pro quo*."

"Sir, Mr. J. Ranganath, Nehrunagar, Kurnool, wants to know the meaning of the word 'teller' as used by banks."

" 'Teller' here means 'a person who receives, and pays out, money over a bank counter'. 'Tell' has several meanings. One of the meanings is 'to count'. The teller in a bank counts the money you give him or receive from him. 'To tell one's beads' means 'to use beads of rosary etc. in counting prayers'. You count the beads on the rosary to keep an account of the prayers said."

"What is a rosary, sir?"

"It is a 'string of beads used especially by Roman Catholics for counting prayers'. It is somewhat like a *rudraksha mala*. Let's go back to 'tell'. In the expression 'all told', 'told' means 'counted', 'with everything taken into account'. All told, there were twenty people. There were seventy women all told. All told, he is a decent chap."

"Sir, Miss K. P. Pande, Allahabad, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'Caesar's wife must be above suspicion'."

"When Caesar was asked why he had divorced his wife, he said, 'Caesar's wife must be above suspicion'. His wife became involved in an accusation against Publius Claudius who stood trial for sacrilege. Caesar knew that his wife was not guilty but felt she shouldn't even be suspected of crime. Not only persons holding high positions but also their relations should be above suspicion, he felt. Modern politicians may feel that this applies only to Caesars and not to duly elected representatives!"

"Sir, Mr. T. K. Shanthanasundaram, My. Acetate Education Society, Mandya, wants to know the difference between 'complacent' and 'complaisant'."

" 'Complacent' means 'self-satisfied'. You have won a prize. Congratulations! But don't be complacent. You must always try to excel yourself. 'Complaisant' means 'marked by inclination to please', 'tending to consent to others' wishes'. A complaisant person tends to please others. He is a complaisant husband and his wife is a complacent woman. 'Complaisant' is a literary word. It is rather old-fashioned. Maybe because it is rather old-fashioned to please others!"

"Sir, which of the two is correct? (a) He kissed her on the cheek. (b) He kissed her on her cheek."

"Grammatically both are correct. But (a) is more acceptable than (b). You generally use 'the' instead of the possessive when you talk about the parts of another's body. I shook him by the hand. He pulled her by the hair. She patted him on the back. They hit him on the forehead."

Published in The Hindu on July 11, 1989

Word of the day

Fervid:
intensely enthusiastic or passionate, especially to an excessive degree

Synonyms: ardent, vehement, emotional

Usage: *The candidate spoke with a fervid intensity that made people want to vote for him.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/fervidpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fə́ːvɪd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

BBMP school students have to wait longer for new shoes and socks

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Nearly half a year after classes started and when mid-term exams are scheduled to be held shortly, students studying in the city's civic body-run schools are yet to get shoes and socks. Parents of the students studying in these schools allege that negligence of civic officials and the delay in the tender process have led to this delay.

BBMP runs a total of 15 primary schools and 32 high schools, where 7476 students are studying this academic year. While the State government has distributed school uniforms, shoes, and textbooks to all students across the State, BBMP has yet to distribute shoes and socks.

Officials blamed the delay in the tender process for not distributing shoes and socks to students yet. B.S. Satyanarayana, former Mayor of BBMP alleged that the delay was due to negligence of officials.

"The main reason for this is the absence of elected representatives in the civic body. As there are no elected representatives, there seems to be no accountability of officials. Generally, all the tender processes for supply of uniforms, shoes, socks are finalised by the month of March and distributed to children as soon as the schools start. However, due to the negligence of the authorities, the children of our schools are going barefoot this year," he said.

"Tenders were called in the month of March itself, but we couldn't finalise in three calls due to inappropriate bids. Now the tendering process has been completed and work order is issued to the concerned supplying agency," Preeti Gehlot, Special Commissioner (Education, Estate and others) BBMP, told *The Hindu*.

In November

BBMP recently finalised the tender for the supply of shoes and socks and has given the contract to Lidkar.

They have been given 45 days time to supply them. The organisation has to now visit each school, take measurements of each student's feet, and supply shoes and socks. So new shoes will be available only in November.

A student of BBMP High School of Chamarajpete said as the Dasara vacation will start in a few days, they were not given shoes and socks still. "I am using the shoes I was given last year which have torn. Wearing shoes along with uniforms to go to school is mandatory. Therefore, I will use old shoes until new shoes are distributed," she said.

Woman arrested for stealing valuables from neighbour's house

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kamakshipalya police on Thursday arrested a 30-year-old former garment factory employee for stealing cash and gold valuables from the house of her neighbour while they were out of station.

The house owner Mahadeva, a resident of Kottigepalya, had gone out of station with his family after keeping the keys in the shoe box outside.

The accused identified as Ratna, who saw the keys being kept, gained entry and stole ₹50,000 cash and gold valuables worth ₹1.6 lakh. She kept the key back in the same place and kept the valuables with her without even informing her family members.

The theft came to light when the family returned home and found the valuables missing without any forceful entry into the house. Based on the complaint, the police suspected that someone who knew about the key might have done it and verified the CCTV footage before picking up Ratna for questioning. She confessed to her crime during interrogation.

The police said Ratna lost her job two months ago and was in dire need of money to meet her family's expenses. Her family was shocked to know that Ratna had burgled the neighbour's house, the police said.

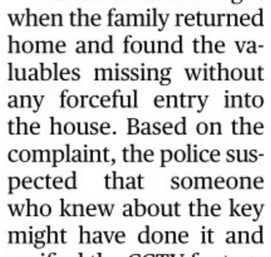
Third tranche of ₹75 crore released for Mysuru airport expansion project

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The expansion of the Mysuru airport project has gained further traction with the State government releasing the third tranche of ₹75 crore towards runway extension.

The amount will be transferred to the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Authority (KIADB) to complete the land acquisition process.

The existing length of the Mysuru airport runway is 1,750 metre and only ATR-type of 72 seater short-haul flights can be operated. The proposal is to expand the runway to at least 2,400 metre which will enable operation of Boeing and Airbus flights over long distance.



Expansion of Mysuru airport entails extending the runway length and the terminal.

The administrative approval for Mysuru airport expansion was issued by the previous BJP government which had announced the allocation of ₹319.13 crore for the project in April 2022. Two tranches of ₹50 crore and ₹100 crore were released since then.

BBMP releases 12% of pending bills for works completed under civic body's grants

The funds were released despite four SITs still probing the quality of works completed in the last three years under the BJP government

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has released ₹411 crore, which is 12.62% of the total pending bills of the contractors who executed works under BBMP grants in Bengaluru. Between 2021 and 2023, works to the tune of ₹3,258 crore were carried out.

According to the order issued on September 15 (a copy of which is available with *The Hindu*), the BBMP has distributed the money to Chief Engineers (CE) of eight zones and BBMP central.

The released amount pertains to the bills generated between April 2021 to September 2021.

During a meeting that was held recently, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had said the civic body would release ₹700 crore, which is 50% of total pending bills from April 2021 to March 2022. The total pending bills is valued at ₹1,300 crore.

The decision was taken to release the funds after the government announced payment to already beleaguered contractors who have been demanding clearance of dues.

The announcement came despite four special investigation teams (SITs) probing the quality of works completed in the last three years under the BJP government.

A view of the BBMP head office in Bengaluru. The civic body has distributed the money to Chief Engineers of eight zones and BBMP Central. FILE PHOTO

A decision was taken to release the funds after the government announced payment to beleaguered contractors who have been demanding clearance of dues

The contractors are however unhappy with the quantum of money that was released.

Contractors unhappy

BBMP Contractors' Association President, K.T. Manjunath said Mr. Giri Nath had promised to release 50% of ₹1,300 crore which has not been implemented. The contractors will not get the pending dues as they expected. The payment will be done based on seniority and only a few lucky ones will get the money first as political allegiance will also come into play during payment, he said. He urged the BBMP to release additional ₹200 crore immediately.

Clarifying about the release, Mr. Giri Nath said he had told about 50% release when the government had announced clearance of 50% of the total bill. But now, the government had ordered 75% payment of total individual bills. In the changed scenario, the BBMP will be releasing funds every month, he said. "

We will be releasing another tranche of money in October. Month on month, the pending bills will be cleared," he added.

The payment will be done by Zonal Chief Engineers, which means the files of the completed works will be inspected by them. This also means the SIT has little role to play in the scheme of things.

Details of funds released

Funds given to	Amount in ₹
Chief Engineer (Central)	4,26,59,146
Chief Engineer (East)	50,82,81,178
Chief Engineer (West)	26,35,77,397
Chief Engineer (South)	44,65,26,830
Chief Engineer (R.R. Nagar)	45,58,91,555
Chief Engineer (Bommanahalli)	65,17,12,045
Chief Engineer (Mahadevapura)	10,82,32,671
Chief Engineer (Yelahanka)	99,08,40,676
Chief Engineer (Dasarahalli)	64,20,78,268
Total	**411,03,99,766**

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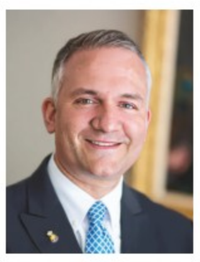
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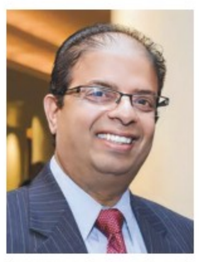
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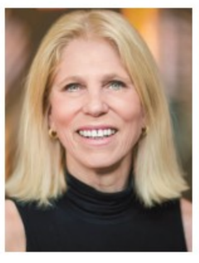
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"Karnataka Thrives: Digital Banking, Organic Products, Real Estate"

Finance and Digital Banking

Every modern economy has set powerful components of banking and finance. The financial sector is essential to helping organisations, people, and governments achieve their financial objectives, maintain stability, and promote economic growth. A healthy economy is supported by banking and finance as they enable capital flow, risk reduction, and wealth development.

One of India's economically successful states was Karnataka, which was renowned for its economic diversity and vitality. Bengaluru, the nation's capital and frequently referred to as the Silicon Valley of India, was instrumental in promoting economic growth, especially in the technology and startup industries. Financial institutions in Karnataka, comprising both governmental and private sector banks, supported the state's economy and promoted investment.

In recent years, the financial industry in Karnataka, one of India's most vibrant states, has undergone a spectacular shift. The state has developed into a centre for innovation, technology, and finance owing in large part to Bengaluru, the state's capital and a city frequently referred to as the Silicon Valley of India

Bengaluru-based fintech businesses are driving a significant change in the field of finance in Karnataka. With an emphasis on payments, lending, and other financial services, these progressive companies are revolutionising how financial services are accessible and provided.

Digital Payments: User-friendly digital wallets and mobile payment apps have been developed by fintech companies, facilitating cashless transactions. They have made a substantial contribution to the state's adoption of electronic payments.

Lending Solutions: Fintech firms based in Karnataka are democratising lending. Peer-to-peer lending systems link borrowers and individual lenders, providing loans that are quicker and more accessible, especially to people who are neglected.

Wealth Management: Fintech businesses are developing robo-advisory services, which give individualised financial advice and portfolio management, increasing the accessibility and efficiency of wealth management.

Insurance Technology: Startups in Karnataka are utilising digital platforms to streamline the purchase and management of insurance policies, increasing customer convenience and transparency. In general, Karnataka's fintech entrepreneurs are leading the way in financial innovation, promoting financial inclusion, and offering both individuals and enterprises effective, tech-driven financial services.

Karnataka has also taken the initiative to advance financial inclusion, making sure that banking services are available to underserved and rural people throughout the state. To do this, several initiatives and programmes have been put in place.

The Gramme Panchayat Connectivity Programme: it was established by Karnataka to bring high-speed internet and connectivity to remote places. This has made it easier for remote villages to set up ATMs, banking kiosks, and digital payment infrastructure.

Government Subsidy Disbursement: To avoid middlemen and ensure transparency, the state government uses digital platforms to transfer subsidies, pensions, and other benefits directly into the bank accounts of recipients.

These initiatives demonstrate Karnataka's dedication to financial inclusion and economic development, ensuring that everyone may benefit from banking and financial services regardless of where they live or their financial situation.

To serve the state's tech-savvy populace, traditional banks in Karnataka have experienced a considerable transition by embracing digitalization. Being a technology centre, Karnataka, and notably Bengaluru, has been at the forefront of this digital transformation in the banking industry.

The transition to digital financial services has improved efficiency, security, and client experience in addition to convenience.

Online Banking Services: They are now available thanks to the revamp of the banking systems used by Karnataka's traditional banks, which now provide a variety of services online. Customers can now conveniently access their accounts from the convenience of their homes or offices, check balances, view transaction history, and transfer money. Regular trips to bank branches are no longer necessary thanks to the convenience of online banking.

Mobile Banking Apps: Traditional banks in Karnataka have created user-friendly mobile banking apps in response to the rise in smartphone use. Customers have the freedom to manage their funds while on the road thanks to these apps. From their cell phones, users may carry out a variety of operations, pay bills, set up alerts, and even register new accounts. The secure and user-friendly mobile apps improve the whole banking experience.

Solutions for Digital Payments: Thanks to the tech-savvy residents of Karnataka, digital payments have become incredibly popular. To adapt to their clients' changing needs, traditional banks have launched digital payment alternatives.

This includes mobile wallets, contactless payment methods, and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Many people in Karnataka choose UPI since it has revolutionised peer-to-peer and merchant transactions.

Growth of ATM networks: Banks have expanded their ATM networks throughout Karnataka to increase client accessibility. These ATMs have cutting-edge features including cardless transactions and cash deposits. Customers can easily access cash and banking services, even in remote locations, thanks to the ease of a wide ATM network.

Strong Security Measures: Digitalisation not only makes life more convenient, but it also poses security issues. Karnataka's traditional banks have made investments in strong security measures to protect consumer information and transactions. Encryption, real-time fraud detection, and multi-factor authentication are a few of the safeguards in place to protect consumer accounts.

Customer Support: Digital customer service methods, such as chatbots and online help centres, have been deployed by traditional banks. These address customer concerns and questions quickly and effectively, thus boosting the customer experience.

Financial Incentives: Government-led financial inclusion efforts, like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), have seen considerable participation from banks in Karnataka. These programmes seek to provide the unbanked and underbanked communities with access to digital banking services by opening bank accounts for them.

Adoption of New Technology: Traditional banks have embraced cutting-edge technology like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to remain competitive and satisfy the expectations of tech-savvy clients.

Data analysis, fraud detection, and the provision of individualised financial suggestions are all made possible by these technologies.

Awareness Programme: Traditional banks in Karnataka have set up financial literacy and awareness campaigns to inform people about the advantages and secure use of online banking services.

These programmes seek to close the digital gap and guarantee that less tech-savvy individuals may make efficient use of these services. Karnataka's emerging trends in banking and finance demonstrate the state's progressive mindset and adherence to international financial advancements. These trends are:

Blockchain Technology: Blockchain technology is gaining popularity in Karnataka, especially for supply chain financing, identity verification, and digital payments. The immutable and secure record system provided by blockchain technology has the potential to increase transparency and lower fraud in financial transactions.

Financial Services Driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI): Customer service, risk assessment, and fraud detection are three areas in which Karnataka's financial sector is heavily reliant on artificial intelligence (AI). AI-powered chatbots and robo-advisors, which provide individualised financial advice and portfolio management, are gaining popularity.

Regulatory Technology (RegTech): Compliance with regulations is a key component of the financial industry. Financial institutions in Karnataka are using RegTech solutions, backed by AI and data analytics, to automate compliance processes and cut costs and risks.

Cybersecurity Measures: To protect client data and uphold confidence, financial institutions in Karnataka are investing in cybersecurity infrastructure. The banking and financial industry in Karnataka has undergone a digital transition due to Bengaluru's prominence as India's technological powerhouse. Financial institutions now can incorporate cutting-edge technologies, such as AI, blockchain, and data analytics, to improve client experiences, streamline operations, and boost security. This is made possible by access to top tech talent and research institutes. Karnataka is now a leader in adopting digitalization thanks to Bengaluru's impact, ensuring that the state stays at the forefront of India's financial technology sector.

Simran Kumar

Organic Products

Recent years have seen a huge increase in the popularity of organic products, which reflects a growing concern for people's health, the environment, and ethical consumerism. Food, cosmetics, textiles, and other products fall under this category, which is distinguished by its stringent adherence to organic agricultural and production norms.

Agriculture without synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is known as organic agriculture. Instead, to preserve soil health and lessen their influence on the environment, organic farmers use natural techniques like crop rotation, composting, and biological pest management.

Organic fruits and vegetables, organic veggies, organic skincare products, and organic apparel are all now available due to the increased demand for organic products. Customers are allowed to select goods that reflect their objectives and values.

Due to the alleged health advantages of organic products, many consumers choose them. People who want to limit their exposure to possibly harmful substances should choose organic meals because they are frequently thought to be devoid of toxic chemical residues. Typically, regulatory agencies certify organic products, which are labelled "USDA Organic" in the United States or "EU Organic" in Europe. Consumers can be confident that items bearing these labels adhere to recognised organic standards.

For those who value their health, the environment, and ethical consumption, organic products are a conscientious decision. Their popularity continues to fuel innovation and growth in the organic business, increasing consumer access to these goods globally. They support environmentally friendly and healthier lifestyles.

Simran Kumar

Space Marketing Initiative continued on Pages 7, 8 & 9

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Cloud seeding to be taken up in Belagavi

Being taken up by Belgaum Sugars, it will help farmers in 12 taluks

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Belgaum Sugars, which is owned by Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, will carry out cloud seeding in Belagavi district on Friday.

"The exercise is part of the company's social welfare activity and the unit is not seeking any government support," Mr. Jarkiholi told journalists in Belagavi on Thursday.

"We hope it will help farmers in the drought-hit district," he said.

As many as 12 taluks of the 14 of the district are on the State government's drought-hit taluk list.

He said that similar experiments in districts like Haveri have achieved significant success in bringing rain. The flight carrying the necessary chemicals will go around seeding clouds across the district twice in the day, first at 1 p.m. and again, at 4 p.m. The flight operated by Hyderabad-based Kyathi Climate Modification Consultants will take off from Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad in the morning. It will arrive at the Belagavi Airport in Sambra at 11.30 a.m. The flight, VT-KCM, will be piloted by Captain Virendra Singh and Captain Adarsha Pandey.

An aircraft will spray chemical, twice on Friday, to induce rainfall as part of cloud seeding in Belagavi district. FILE PHOTO

It is expected to complete the operation and leave for Hyderabad by evening.

Iron ore exports recommence after a decade at NMP

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Export of iron ore fins began at the New Mangaluru Port on Thursday with the port authorities receiving the first rake of fins for export aggregation.

NMP Authority Chairman A.V. Ramana, Deputy Chairman K.G. Nath, officials from Mines and Geology and Customs Departments, other stakeholders and senior port officials received the first rake at the NMP Railway siding.

Bengaluru-based exporter E. Ramamurthy Minerals & Metals Pvt., Ltd., has brought 3,700 tonnes fins in 56 boxened wagons from mines in Chitradurga district. The fines will be stored at NMP as the exporter is yet received the export order.

The resumption of iron ore exports nearly after a decade underscores the Port's commitment to promote trade and contribute to the growth of the Indian economy, said a release. The Port is again ready to play an important role in facilitating iron ore exports.

Iron ore fins brought from the Chitradurga mines for export being unloaded at the railway siding of New Mangalore Port on Thursday.

Mr. Ramana thanked all stakeholders, including government departments, for their collective efforts and support to recommence the exports.

He emphasised the port's commitment to ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible operations. He also appreciated the significance of the move of dual rake operation through backhaul cargo from the port's import, which is going to be a game changer for the trade.

The resumption of iron ore exports from New Mangalore Port is expected to have a positive impact on the local economy, creating job opportunities and stimulating economic growth in the region.

Additionally, it strengthens India's position as a global supplier of high-quality iron ore, contributing to the nation's economic development and infrastructure development projects.

Coast Guard rescues T.N. fishing vessel near Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Indian Coast Guard has rescued a fishing boat from Tamil Nadu that was stranded in the sea, 39 nautical miles off the Mangaluru coast. In a press release by the Coast Guard Karnataka on Thursday, it was stated that ICG's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Mumbai received information about fishing boat *Thiruchendur Murugan* getting stranded in the sea because of broken engine shaft.

The boat had left for fishing from Mookaiyur, near Rameswaram, on September 20. The MRCC relayed the information to Coast Guard Karnataka, which sent two Coast Guard Interceptor boats to the spot.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (September 29, Friday), the following articles are available:

- Inside the digital world of cookies **bit.ly/cookiesinwebsite**
- Nipah virus outbreak: What are monoclonal antibodies? **bit.ly/nipahvirusmonoclonal**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Real Estate - There is no place like home

Over the years, Karnataka's real estate development has seen tremendous expansion and change, driven by a combination of economic forces, urbanisation, and government efforts.

Here is a summary of some of the most recent developments in Karnataka's real estate development:

Economic Growth and Urbanisation: Karnataka, the state that is home to the vibrant metropolis of Bengaluru, has seen strong economic growth that has drawn both firms and professionals. Due to this, demand for office and residential space has surged, spurring real estate development.

Infrastructure Development: The state government has made significant investments in infrastructure projects, such as the expansion of the metro train system, the development of road networks, and smart city programmes. Because of these initiatives, Karnataka cities are now more livable and appealing to real estate investors.

Co-working spaces: They have become increasingly popular, especially in Bengaluru, thanks to the growth of the IT industry and entrepreneurs.

Sustainable Development: Karnataka has demonstrated an increasing commitment to environmentally friendly and sustainable building methods. According to global sustainability trends, developers are integrating eco-friendly aspects into their designs.

Initiatives for affordable housing: They have gained traction in response to the housing demands of diverse socioeconomic groups.

These initiatives seek to offer high-quality housing at reasonable costs.

Proptech Integration: Proptech, or the incorporation of technology into real estate, has gained popularity.

This includes online transactions, virtual property tours, and property management software, all of which improve the client experience.

Simran Kumar

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Why fish are dying in city's lakes

Fishkill is an indication of deteriorating health of lake ecosystem. Bengaluru reported 16 major ones in this year. **K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj** finds out what is causing this and how it can be prevented

The sight of thousands of dead fish floating in a lake or flames dancing on the surface of a waterbody may seem like scenes from a dystopian science fiction film. But for the people of Bengaluru, famously the City of Lakes, these are scenes from daily life and a clear sign of the deteriorating health of the lakes and their entire ecosystem.

While the city reported 17 mass fishkill incidents in 2022, it has already registered 16 instances this year. The city's lakes reported an average of four to six fishkills annually during 2017-21. However, in an arrangement where multiple agencies are responsible for the city's lakes and hence no one is accountable, no agency is keeping track of fishkills, and this may only mean many instances have gone unreported.

Dead fish in Kothanur lake and (right) in Yelachenahalli lake. K. MURALI KUMAR

Fishkill in Ulsoor lake and (left) Kundanahalli lake. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Symptom of a malaise

"Mass fishkill is a clear indication of the deteriorating health of the lake ecosystem. It's a symptom. This only means the city's lakes are just going downhill over the last few years," said V. Ramprasad, a co-founder of Friends of Lakes (FoL), a citizen coalition of lake conservation activists.

Kavita Kishore, a resident of HSR Layout, a posh neighbourhood in the south-east part of the city, involved in the rejuvenation and conservation of Lower Ambalipura lake, a small, well-preserved lake in the locality, was shocked to wake up to thousands of fish floating dead in the lake on July 22. "Our lake is well preserved and maintained. At least in the last decade, we never faced a fishkill in our lake. It was such a horrific sight to behold. An estimate put it at around 30,000 fish killed that day," she recalled.

The lake community has ensured all the apartment complexes around the lake have functioning sewage treatment plants (STPs) and no raw sewage is let into the lake. But a sewage pipe in one of the communities had broken, and raw sewage was being let into the lake. "We identified and fixed it. Now the lake is back to being healthy, and no fishkill has been reported," she said. However, she said untreated water continued to flow into the lake from the neighbouring Haralur village, and they were working on it.

The science behind it

Fishkill often happens when the dissolved oxygen (DO) – the amount of oxygen in the water – reduces drastically, choking the fish to death. Depleting DO is caused by a higher biochemical oxygen demand (BOD, often because of a high concentration of nutrients and organic matter that decomposes in an anaerobic condition, releasing ammonia or algal blooms in the water body.

While aquatic plants release oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis during the daytime, they also absorb oxygen at night. This creates a DO crisis in water bodies, mainly after the sun goes down. So, most fishkill occur at night and are sighted early in the morning.

A healthy lake water ecosystem usually does not get into this DO crisis mode. But in a city like Bengaluru, where lakes have become dumping grounds for raw sewage and other effluents, many lakes have a high concentration of nutrients and organic matter, leading to high BOD, creating a DO crisis, choking the fish to death.

Inlet of raw sewage into lakes

"Three years ago, we surveyed 193 lakes in the city and found raw sewage entering 92% of the lakes. The situation hasn't changed much since then. Raw sewage is the main factor for fishkill in the city's lakes. Thus, it is man-made," said T.V. Ramachandra, who heads the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, in the city.

He said he had been studying fishkill as a phenomenon in the city's lakes since at least 1994, when it was reported in Sankey Tank, one of the premiere British-built tanks in the heart of the city. "The reasons have always been anthropogenic," he said. Apart from the inlet of raw sewage, algal blooms and the difference in water and atmospheric temperature also lead to fish kills, he added.

Bengaluru, its lakes and fish are eventually paying the price for the rampant horizontal development of the city, especially over the last two decades. Most fishkills are reported from lakes in outer zones that have seen unregulated growth due to population explosion in these areas that house the tech corridor and office spaces. Civic infrastructure, like a basic underground drainage system, is still absent in many places.

Most fishkills in the city's lakes are reported in summer and monsoon months. In summer, the temperature rise escalates it. During the monsoon, rains wash the silt from storm-water drains (SWDs) in. These SWDs are meant to be feeder channels to lakes for rainwater but also carry garbage and raw sewage into the lakes. The silt from SWDs is rich in phosphates, nitrates, and organic matter, leading to a high BOD resulting in a DO crisis.

The same high concentration of nitrates and phosphates in the silt on the lake bed eventually leads to the release of methane gas, causing fire on the lakes, like the city regularly saw in Bellandur lake. It has stopped since the rejuvenation and desilting of the lake bed is underway. If there is churning and turbidity in these lakes, they also froth, like in Bellandur and Varthur lakes. The images of Bellandur lake, the largest in the city, on fire hit global headlines some years ago. A fishkill is one of the first signs of the deteriorating health of a lake ecosystem, which, if not addressed, may also eventually result in fire or frothing.

> Three years ago, we surveyed 193 lakes in the city and found raw sewage entering 92% of them. The situation hasn't changed much since then.
>
> **T.V. RAMACHANDRA**
> IISc

A cry for help not heeded to

Data compiled by Raghavendra B. Pachhapur, Senior Lead (Projects), ActionAid Association, an international non-governmental organisation working for environmental justice, among other causes, shows repeated fishkills in a few lakes in a short time.

For instance, data shows three fish kills reported in Kothanur lake, in J.P. Nagar, in South Bengaluru, in February, April, and July this year, and thrice in 2022. "It is a cry for help from the lake ecosystem to make a course correction to reduce pollution. The raw sewage inlet is the reason for repeated fishkills in this lake. The city's civic body has served notices to Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) in 2022 to find a permanent solution to fix this lake, to no avail to date," said a senior civic official. There is no STP at Kothanur lake.

Beyond capacity

In another instance, Kundalahalli lake in the city's tech corridor near Whitefield and Bhattarahalli lake near K.R. Puram, which have functional STPs, have also reported fishkills multiple times in 2022 and 2023.

It happened in Kundalahalli lake thrice in June and September this year, and in Bhattarahalli lake in June and August this year and June last year. "Fishkills in lakes served by STPs is concerning. They only mean either STPs are not functional or the sewage inflow is beyond the processing capacity of the STP serving the lake," Pachhapur said. Water quality analysis at Kundalahalli lake by Action Aid following a fishkill in June 2023 showed a high concentration of faecal coliform bacteria, indicating raw sewage inlet into the lake.

Arvind Keerthi, a resident of Kundalahalli, set up two STPs totalling 750 Kilo Litre Per Day (KLD) capacity at the Kundalahalli lake as a private initiative through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds in 2014-15.

"Of the two units, one is working fine, processing nearly 400 KLD of sewage and letting in treated water. However, the inflow of raw sewage is much beyond the capacity of the STPs at the lake to process. This has led to fish kills," he said.

Meanwhile, Ramprasad of FoL said STPs installed by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) did not have a Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) system, which meant sewage processing did not remove phosphates and nitrates before letting them into the lake. He said that high concentrations of these nutrients can also lead to fish kills. Data released by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board in July show higher concentrations of both phosphates and nitrates in many lakes.

A senior BWSSB official said the Board had initiated a project to install BNR systems in their STPs. Meanwhile, the city has a long road ahead before it can treat all raw sewage before letting it into the lakes. For now, the city's civic body, which is the custodian of the lakes, has built diversion channels to take raw sewage away from the lake. However, civic officials concede that this was not foolproof and sewage often mixed with lake water, especially when it rains.

Fishing dangers

Narayana Krishnappa, who has the contract to rear fish in lower Ambalipura lake – won through a tendering process by the Karnataka Fisheries Department – suffered a loss of over ₹6 lakh as over 30,000 fish died earlier this month. "The Fisheries Department issues tenders, and these five-year contracts do not include any clause for compensating us for fish kills, which happen because of factors beyond our control and because of the negligence of authorities," he lamented.

However, a senior civic official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the water quality of the city's lakes was not suitable for rearing fish, and the Fisheries Department must stop issuing contracts for fish rearing. "Fish reared in these lakes are definitely not suitable to be consumed," he said.

Ramachandra, of IISc, said their studies had shown that vegetables grown by the lakes, using water from here, had higher than permissible concentrations of heavy metals, leading to several health issues. This also raises questions about the effects of eating fish reared in these lakes.

It is shocking that 33 of 61 lakes surveyed for water quality by KSPCB in July 2023 have been categorised as "D", unfit for drinking, but cleared for fisheries. However, Pachhapur said most of these water samples were collected during "office time" when DO in water was higher. "The slide of a lake from Category D to Category E, essentially a dead lake, is swift and often goes unnoticed. Fisheries Department should allow fishing only in categories A, B, and C lakes," Ramprasad said.

The way ahead

While the city's civic body is the custodian of lakes, the responsibility to ensure raw sewage is not let into them is with BWSSB, even as KSPCB's is to check pollution of all water bodies. The Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority owns these lakes. "A labyrinth of agencies has only meant nobody is held responsible," said Pachhapur.

"We need to book cases under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and send some senior officials to prison. Only then will we start seeing some action on the ground," said Ramchandra.

"Fishkill is stoppable provided there is effective monitoring of water quality and our SWDs are free from sewage and are monsoon ready. We need to ensure raw sewage is not entering the lakes. KSPCB has begun making public the 25 parameters that are considered when water in 91 lakes is tested for their quality every month. This data helps us understand what is happening in each lake, empowering us to make specific interventions. Preventing fishkills is also restoring the health of the lake ecosystem," Pachhapur said.

New innings Ganesh and Rukmini Vasanth in stills from *Baanadariyalli;*(below) filmmaker Preetham Gubbi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ganesh talks about *Baanadariyalli*, a love story shot in the wild and rugged landscape of the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya

Donning a different cap

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Outside the boundary rope at the Aditya Global cricket stadium in Nelamangala, Bengaluru, actor Ganesh, sporting cricket whites, talks about his love for the gentleman's game. "There's a reason why most people aspire to be cricketers or actors in our country."

"I have loved cricket ever since I was a child. I meet my friends from the film fraternity to play friendly matches once a month. I never miss playing in the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) and the Karnataka Chalanachitra Cup (KCC)," adds Ganesh, fondly called the Golden Star of Kannada cinema.

In Ganesh's latest film, *Baanadariyalli,* directed by friend and filmmaker, Preetham Gubbi, which opened in theatres on September 28, the actor plays a cricketer. In one of the scenes from the trailer, he plays a reverse sweep, and his answer when asked about it is intriguing.

"I play a struggling cricketer who is also short-tempered. Whenever he gets angry, he does something quirky or bizarre. The reverse sweep is not a traditional shot. You play it out of haste or desperation sometimes. It is a metaphor for his character. The film is about how the guy who plays reverse sweeps starts hitting straight shots. In this sense, the film is a tale of his transformation."

The film, Ganesh's fourth collaboration with Gubbi after *Maleyali Jotheyali, Dil Rangeela,* and *99* (a remake of the Tamil hit *96*), is essentially a love story at heart. Like the actor-director's previous films, *Baanidariyalli* too sees the protagonist travel to a specific destination to fall in love; if it was Sakleshpura in *Maleyali Jotheyali* and Goa in *Dil Rangeela,* the hero in *Baanadariyalli* goes to Maasai Mara, the national reserve in Kenya.

"The reason why the protagonist travels in this film is very different compared to what we saw in *Maleyali Jotheyali* and *Dil Rangeela*," points out Ganesh. "Also, *Baanadariyalli* has more depth compared to the other two films. If I have to say it in one word, the film is an experience. If you have noticed, our trailer begins like a film, and then you get a feel of watching a documentary. It ends on an emotional note. I am sure people will know we have tried something different."

I want to play different characters but I don't want to compromise on entertainment. My audiences are women and children. I want to provide clean entertainment.

GANESH
Actor

Shooting in a national reserve was challenging, says the actor. "Maasai Mara is a tourist spot, so there were a lot of rules for us to follow. We had to pay and get permission at several spots and the film's budget kept increasing."

The actor's career, which rose to prominence with the massive success of *Mungaru Male* (2006), has blown hot and cold over the past 15 years. He stresses that he will strive to balance commercial safety with good craft. "I want to play different characters but I don't want to compromise on entertainment. My audiences are women and children. I want to provide them with clean entertainment. At the same time, I want my films to do well at the box office."

Bankrolled by Sri Vaare Talkies, *Baanadariyalli* also stars Rukmini Vasanth, who is basking in the success of *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello,* where she starred opposite Rakshit Shetty. Rangayana Raghu and Reeshma Nanaiah also feature in prominent roles with music by Arjun Janya and cinematography by Abhilash Kalathi.

A living legacy

A retrospective on printmaker Devraj Dakoji is currently underway at NGMA Bengaluru

Treasure trove Devraj Dakoji (below); and a print from the exhibition. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Do you know what printmaking is? Simply put, it is the process of creating works of art by printing, usually on paper, though one could also use fabric, wood, metal and other surfaces. Whether you are an art student, a connoisseur or simply curious, the ongoing exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) on the works of master printmaker Devraj Dakoji will be an eye opener on this art form.

Curated by Darshan Kumar YU, Amrutha R, Subarna Patro and others in the NGMA team, the exhibition titled Master Printmaker – Devraj Dakoji, is a retrospective that captures the oeuvre of one of India's foremost printmakers.

Eight months in the making, and this exhibition showcases close to 500 of Devraj's works selected from over 3,000, and includes paintings, etchings and prints created using various techniques such as intaglio, lithograph, chine colle and more. There is also a section dedicated to Devraj's collaborations with Ghulam Mohd Sheikh, MF Hussain and Zarina Hashmi as well as international artists such as Juan Sanchez, Lenore RS Lim, Chakaia Booker and others.

"In a day and age, when prints are just a mouse click away, the importance of printmaking cannot be dismissed," says Darshan Kumar, one of the curators of the show. He adds, "Printmaking not only produces many copies, it also creates different copies; when artists adopt this technique, the copies are called editions or limited editions."

While it is common today for artists to directly create prints of their works, master printers usually collaborated with an artist. "Devraj collaborated with MF Hussain; they would discuss which kind of printmaking would suit his art, how to execute them and the number of editions required. It is a collaborative effort between the artist and printmaker," says Darshan.

Apart from his collaborations with many Indian and international artists, what sets Devraj apart is that he is an artist in his own right. "If he remained a master printmaker, he would be seen as a skilled copier – all his skill and experience would have been applied in collaborations where there are restrictions from the artist. His understanding and skill give his own work a different perspective," he adds.

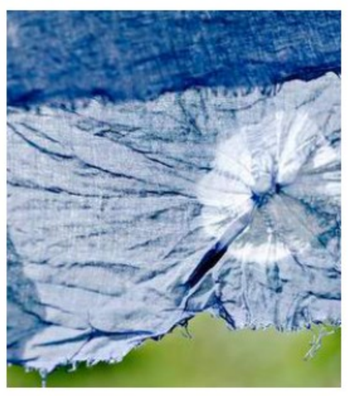
Artist and master printmaker Devraj Dakoji will conduct a gallery walk on September 29 at 3pm.

The exhibition titled Master Printmaker – Devraj Dakoji, will be on display at NGMA Bengaluru till October 10.

STEPOUT

Celebrating sustainability

The Bhoomi Yugaantar Festival, inspired by visionaries such as Gandhiji and JC Kumarappa, focuses on sustainability, education, and community building. Expect engaging workshops, talks, and conversations on green economics, climate action, Nature and biodiversity, and more, featuring renowned speakers like Aseem Shrivastava and Disha Ravi.
At Bhoomi-Prakriya Campus on October 1 and 2. For more details and registration, visit bhoomicollege.org



Craft and colours

Colorashram is forging a warm new relationship with Serenity, a curated space and store dedicated to supporting art, craft and communities. All are welcome to the Colorashram Openhouse with Namrata, the founder. The session will delve into the world of natural dye, covering its potential, sustainability, target audience, learning opportunities and adoption methods.
At Serenity, Jayamahal Extension on October 2, 4 to 5 pm. For details, call 08041279127.

Mosquitoes and a royal decree

BIC will screen *Hun Hunshi Hunshilal* as a tribute to the late cinematographer Navroze Contractor

Vikalp Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Bangalore International Centre, is set to host a special screening of the film *Hun Hunshi Hunshilal* on September 29 at 6.30 pm. This event is a tribute to the film's late cinematographer Navroze Contractor, who passed away on June 18, 2023.

One of the leading documentary cinematographers in India, Navroze, shot with Indian and international filmmakers. His documentaries include *Ballad of Pabu* by George Luneau, *Dreams of the Dragon's Children* by Pierre Hoffmann, *Are You Listening* by Martha Stewart, and the *Last House in Bombay* by Luke Jennings.

Directed by Sanjiv Shah, *Hun Hunshi Hunshilal* is a cinematic experience that imagines a country in turmoil as mosquitoes disrupt the lives of its citizens, causing unrest and protest. The king, desperate to maintain his rule, resorts to surveillance, forbidding dreams, and waging wars against the troublesome mosquitoes. The story revolves around Hunshi, a scientist who falls in love with Parveen, and how together they join the battle against the oppressive king.

The film blends diverse cinematic forms, incorporating elements from popular culture, Indian films, folk storytelling, songs, and documentary footage.

Entry is free. For RSVP, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

ಆರ್ಟಿಸನ್ಸ್ ಬಜಾರ್
Artisans Bazaar
There is a memory in every single piece of art.
(11 Days Exhibition)
Date : 29th Sept to 9th Oct, 2023
Timings: 11 AM to 7 PM
Dussehra Festival Shopping Carnival
Arts, Crafts & Handlooms Exhibition
100+ Shopping Stalls | Live Performance & More
STARTS TODAY
Entry Free!
Organized By
Grand Flea Market
For Details Contact
9036658774 / 6364685716
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath,
Kumara Krupa Road, Near Shivananda Circle
Bengaluru -560 001.
HANDLOOMS | HOME DECOR | HANDICRAFTS | CLOTHING | JEWELLERS

INBRIEF

Hariprasad, Muniyappa meet Deputy Chief Minister

Amidst demand from a section of the Congress leaders for the creation of more Deputy Chief Ministers' posts, senior leader and MLC B.K. Hariprasad and Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa on Thursday called on KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the latter's residence.

Mr. Shivakumar said both leaders discussed issues related to forthcoming elections to the Lok Sabha. Mr. Muniyappa suggested the necessity of early appointment of chairpersons to boards and corporations, he said.

Ramesh Chandra Lahoti is president of FKCCI

Ramesh Chandra Lahoti has taken charge as president of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) for the year 2023-24.

Earlier, he served as the Secretary of Bangalore Wholesale Pulses & Food Grains Merchants' Association, before he became the president of the same association. He had served on several committees of FKCCI such as APMC, GST, Membership, Labour, Internal Trade, and International Trade. He was also instrumental in creating an umbrella body for APMC, the APMC Yards Committee, as per a statement released by FKCCI. M.G. Balakrishna has been elected as senior Vice-President, FKCCI, and Uma Reddy will serve as Vice-President.

Canara Bank raises ₹5,000 cr. in Infrastructure Bond

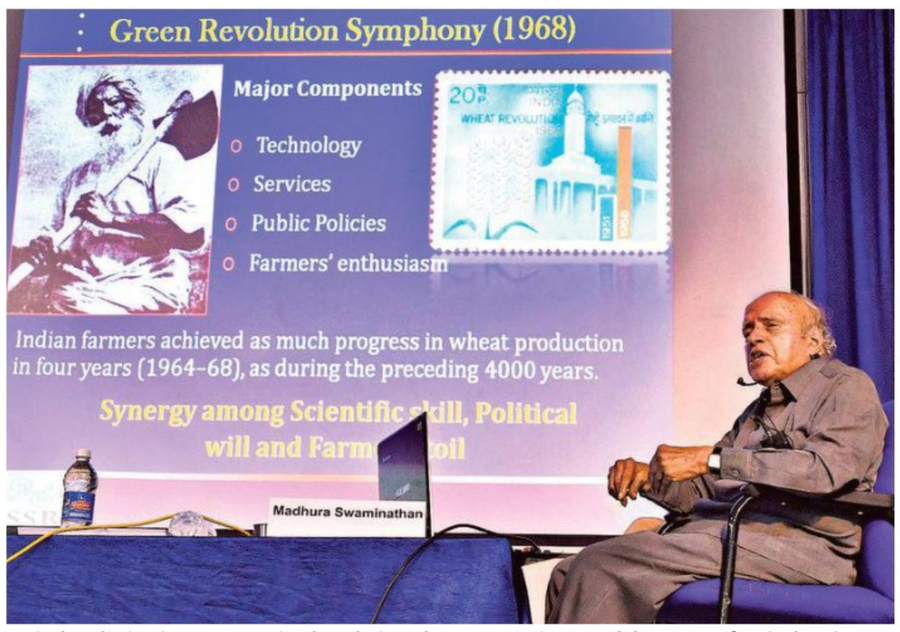
Canara Bank has said that it raised ₹5,000 crore in Long Term Infrastructure Bond, Series I Bonds during the current fiscal. Canara Bank in its maiden issuance of Long Term Infrastructure Bonds has raised ₹ 5,000 crore, at a coupon rate of 7.54% per annum, it said in a statement.

The issue received overwhelming response from investors, with bids for more than ₹14,180 crore against a base issue size of ₹1,000 crore and green shoe option of ₹4,000 crore, the bank said.

Swaminathan played key role in framing State farm policy, chaired vision group

He was instrumental in guiding us on dryland farming and encouraged us to start using biotech and funding biotech to develop advanced varieties of seeds. He appreciated Karnataka's work on millets and Krishi Bhagya scheme, said Minister Krishna Byre Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU


Green Revolution Symphony (1968)
Major Components
Technology
Services
Public Policies
Farmers' enthusiasm
Indian farmers achieved as much progress in wheat production in four years (1964–68), as during the preceding 4000 years.
Madhura Swaminathan

Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan during a lecture on 'Science and the Future of Agriculture' at St. Joseph's College, and (right) during a meeting with then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, in Bengaluru in 2018.

Eminent agricultural scientist and Father of the Green Revolution in India M.S. Swaminathan, who passed away in Chennai on Thursday, had worked with the Karnataka government in various capacities. He was a frequent visitor to Bengaluru where he took part in agriculture-related engagements and delivered many lectures.

Dr. Swaminathan, the then Chairman of National Commission on Farmers had visited Karnataka on three different occasions before the State's second agricultural policy in 2006 was finalised by the Janata Dal (Secular)-BJP alliance led by H.D. Kumaraswamy. He had held extensive discussions and gave valuable ideas and suggestions specific to Karnataka and had detailed discussions with former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda.

"The mainstay of the 2006 agricultural policy, which is the most comprehensive document and continues to be in vogue had major inputs coming from the Dr. Swaminathan-headed National Commission on Farmers," said JD (S) leader and then Agriculture Minister Bandeppa Kashempur. Recalling the formulation of the report, he said experts and officials had discussions with the scientist before the report was finalised.

The agricultural policy document states that Dr. Swaminathan appreciated the proactive approach of the State government and the fact that Karnataka was the first State not only to constitute the committees but also to make a detailed presentation before the National Commission of Farmers.

In 2015, the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government appointed him to chair a Vision Group for the agricultural sector for Karnataka.

"During our tenure, he was instrumental in guiding us in dryland farming or rain-fed agriculture, and encouraged us to start using biotech and funding biotech to develop advanced varieties of seeds. He was also guiding the work when we set up the Karnataka Agricultural Price Commission (KAPC)," remembered Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who was Agriculture Minister in the erstwhile Congress government.

He said, "Despite his advanced age, he was always available for consultation, willing to share his time and knowledge. He was appreciative of Karnataka's work on millets and Krishi Bhagya (farm pond). It was a great learning experience working with him."

'Close relationship'

In July 2018, he had also visited the then Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy at Vidhana Soudha. "Dr. Swaminathan maintained a close relationship with State. He used to frequently visit Bengaluru both for personal reasons as well as academic and official purposes. He maintained a close relationship with governments," said former chairman of KAPC Prakash Kammaradi, who worked closely with the eminent scientist. "We recommended implementing the Dr. Swaminathan report on Minimum Support Price through legal recourse," he said.

Honorary doctorates

The Universities of Agriculture Sciences (UAS)-Bangalore and Dharwad on separate occasions conferred on him honorary doctorates, recognising his contribution to the growth of agriculture in India.

"When the UAS-B celebrated its golden jubilee, we found it was apt to invite him to deliver the convocation address considering his depth of knowledge and contribution to field of agriculture," recalled former UAS-B Vice Chancellor K. Narayana Gowda during whose tenure the agricultural scientist was invited to deliver the convocation address.

At another function organised by the UAS-B Alumni Association, Dr. Gowda remembered: "He not only appreciated the association's work, but also felt that having received the honorary doctorate, he was also one of the alumni." Dr. Swaminathan had regularly provided suggestions to the growth of UAS-B while he also came to attend functions multiple times, he added.

His connection to Bengaluru was also through his daughter Madhura Swaminathan, a faculty member at Economic Analysis Unit in Indian Statistical Institute here.

Tension in Vijayapura after Yatnal's poster is torn

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A group of youth gathered at Shivaji Chowk in Vijayapura on Thursday after some unidentified men tore down a poster that contained images of BJP leader and MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal. The poster contained greetings to the public on the occasion of Ganesha Chaturthi.

Some youth, including Raghav Annigeri, president of Swami Vivekananda Sene, demanded that the offenders be arrested immediately.

A team of police officers led by Superintendent of Police Sonawane Rishikesh rushed to the spot and dispersed the group. The police also removed the whole poster from the place.

The Superintendent of Police assured the youth leaders that an inquiry will be ordered and the accused will be brought to book.

Principal district judge to administer vidyapeetha of Murugha Mutt till appointment of president: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Principal District Judge, Chitradurga district, will oversee the administration and management of Jagadguru Murugarajendra (JM) Vidyapeetha run by J.M. Bruhan Mutt till the appointment of a president as per the bylaws to manage the vidyapeetha in place of incarcerated seer-cum-president Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, said the High Court of Karnataka.

However, the HC made it clear that on such appointment of the president for the vidyapeetha, the role of Principal District Judge (PDJ) would come to an end without reference to court.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice M.G.S. Kamal passed the order while disposing of appeals on the single judge's May 22, 2023, order of quashing State government's December 13, 2022, notification appointing a retired IAS officer as the administrator for both the mutt and its vidyapeetha. The administrator was appointed following the arrest of the seer, Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, on the charges of sexual assault on some minor girls of the institutions The Bench in July had appointed the PDJ as the administrator in place of retired IAS officer, who was allowed to continue as administrator by the single judge till the devotees of the mutt devised a plan for administration of the mutt and the vidyapeetha.

Meanwhile, the Bench noted that the devotees of the mutt, based on the single' judge order, had on May 28 formed an overseeing committee to govern the mutt and the vidyapeetha under the directorship of Basava Prabhu Swami, who is the in-charge seer of the mutt nominated by the jailed leader.

The Bench, however, noticed that the overseeing committee though can manage the vidyapeetha and its institutions, it cannot take any decision as vidyapeetha's by-laws, framed under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, empower only the president to take decision. The post of president is non-functional as Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru has been under judicial custody for a year now. "There seems to be no change in the position with regard to presidentship; change in the post of president or appointment of a president has to be in terms of the bylaws, the rules and regulations of the vidyapeetha. It is for this sole reason and under unfortunate peculiar situation, also in the interest of vast number of institutions, students and staff, and public at large, we deem it appropriate to include an additional member be included with the power to take decisions which were required to be taken by the president," the Bench said while continuing PDJ for overseeing the administration of the vidyapeetha. However, it did not go into the legality of December 13, 2022, notification as the government, subsequent to the order of single judge, had withdrawn the notification.

On the other hand, the bench distinguished the manner of administration of vidyapeetha from that of the mutt on noticing that the vidyapeetha was registered under the KSR Act unlike the mutt, which is excluded by law from the interference of the government under the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act.

DKS to meet experts ahead of CWMA meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has called a meeting of experts in irrigation and agriculture sectors on Friday just ahead of the Cauvery Water Management Authority's meeting in Delhi to get their suggestions.

Disclosing this to mediapersons in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar, however, refused to divulge the identity of experts who have been invited to the meeting. "I will not disclose who will attend the meeting," he said. Mr. Shivakumar, who also holds Water Resources portfolio, said instead of attending a virtual meeting, he has directed the officials concerned from Karnataka to physically attend the meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority on Friday in Delhi. "Our officials will effectively argue the case by presenting ground reality on the water situation in the Cauvery basin," he said.

The government has already filed a petition in the Supreme Court. The CWMA meeting would be held on Friday and we are keenly waiting for its next order. The State will continue to argue against the release of water at the rate of 3,000 cusecs to Tamil Nadu as stipulated by the authority, he said.

Festive hues

Devotees take part in procession on the occasion of Eid Milad-Un-Nabi in Bengaluru on Thursday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Lahar Singh makes futile bid to meet Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to discuss Cauvery issue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lahar Singh Siroya

BJP leader from Karnataka and Rajya Sabha member Lahar Singh Siroya made an effort to meet Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin by camping in Chennai for two days with an intention to convince him about the need to resolve the row over sharing of Cauvery river water through mutual dialogue. However, the MP returned to Bengaluru on Thursday as he could not meet the Tamil Nadu CM.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on his arrival, Mr. Lahar Singh said: "Though I could not meet the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, my interactions with senior DMK MPs and Tamil Nadu leaders were extremely positive and they were receptive to the suggestions I made and appeared positive that discussions between Karnataka and T.N. government will provide a solution."

Mr. Singh said he wanted to apprise Mr. Stalin about the looming drinking water crisis in Bengaluru, drought situation in Karnataka and urge him to consider the issue as a humanitarian crisis and not a regional conflict.

He said he was hopeful that an amicable solution to the crisis can be found if the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu meet and hold discussions.

Mr. Singh hailed the suggestion of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda that out of court settlement was the best way forward. Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu must meet and discuss the matter to find a solution, he said.

He said, in the interest of Karnataka's farmers and Bengaluru, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar should make efforts and reach out to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and hold discussions to find a solution.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

CENTENARY REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Sugirthabai Michael
1930 - 2011
D/o Dr. G. S. G. Mani

Mr. W. Michael Selvaraj
1923 - 1998
S/o Rev. G. P. Williams

We thank God for their noble lives

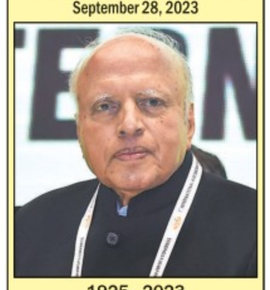
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. - Psalms 23:6

His LORD said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy LORD. - Matt. 25:21

Fondly Remembered
S. M. Michael (Mani), Michael David, Jean Tensingh and their families.
9710925425

DEATH

Professor
M. S. Swaminathan, FRS
World-famous scientist, plant geneticist, visionary administrator
&
Principal architect of the Green Revolution
died peacefully at his home in Chennai on September 28, 2023



1925 - 2023
His body will be placed at the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), 3rd Cross Street, Institutional Area, Taramani, Chennai - 600113 for members of the public to pay their respects from 7 a.m.
Friday, September 29, 2023.
He will be cremated with Police Honours at the Besant Nagar Crematorium at 12 noon on Saturday, September 30, 2023.

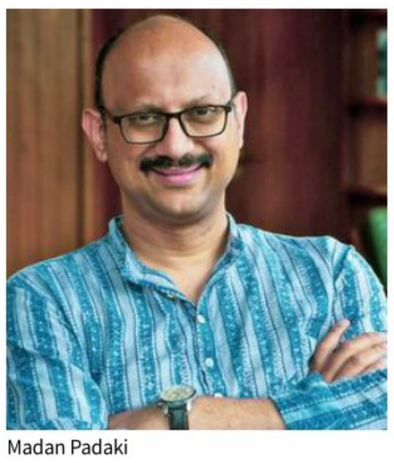
Can a Karnataka Fund of Funds open new possibilities for start-ups from the State?

A State-wise fund of funds has been one of the proposals in a recently released report. According to stakeholders in the industry, start-ups and SMEs in Karnataka stand to gain a lot from it

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Taslimarif Saiyed

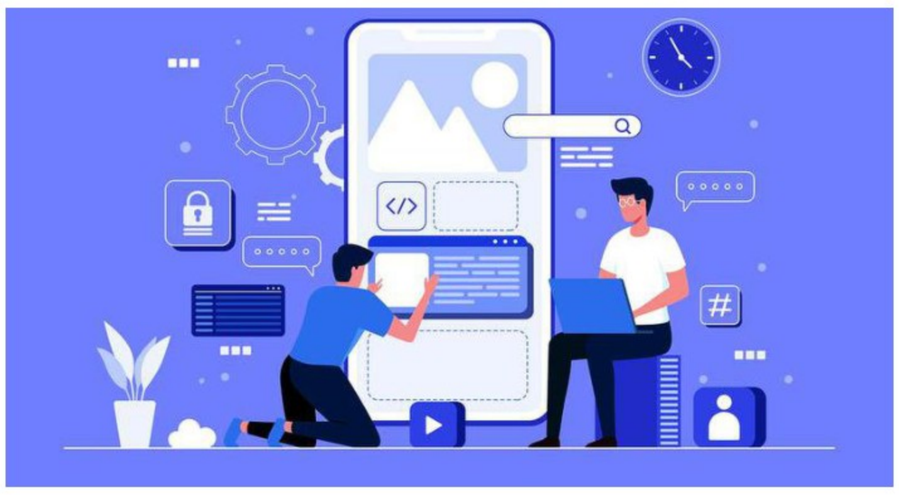
Pranav Pai


Madan Padaki

Funding scenario - Bengaluru vs Beyond Bengaluru

	2022		2023 (as on September 28)	
Cities	Total funding (USD)	Rounds of funding	Total funding (USD)	Rounds of funding
Bengaluru	12.6 B	841	2.9 B	228
Tiptur	20.0 M	1	-	-
Mysuru	1 M	1	-	-
Dharwad	3,60,380	1	-	-
Belgaum	1,96,178	1	-	-
Hubballi	1,94,335	1	1,22,903	1
Manipal	1,63,943	1	-	-

Source: Tracxn



It was in 2016 that the Government of India announced a Fund of Fund for Startups (FFS) with a corpus of ₹10,000 Crore in line with the Start-up India action plan. The idea was to provide a boost to the Indian start-up ecosystem and enable access to domestic capital.

Several start-ups seem to have benefited from the FFS, and ever since there has been a demand from various quarters for more focused sector-specific and region-specific Fund of Funds.

As per news reports, earlier this year Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) proposed a Fund of Funds for early-stage start-ups with a special focus on deep-tech start-ups. SIDBI operates the existing FFS.

A ₹5,000 Crore Fund of Funds for startups in Karnataka was part of BJP's manifesto before the Karnataka elections in 2023.

A state-wise ₹5,000 Crore fund of funds (FoF) has also been one of the proposals in the recently released report titled 'Karnataka's Decade: Roadmap to $1 Trillion Economy.' The report was released last week by the Planning, Programme Monitoring, and Statistics Department and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

According to stakeholders in the industry, start-ups and SMEs in the state stand to gain a lot from a state-wise fund of funds (FoF).

More local capital

"The idea behind the national fund of funds run by SIDBI was to grow the ecosystem of local capital and support local fund managers. That has worked largely,' says Pranav Pai, founding partner and chief investment officer at 3one4 Capital.

SIDBI acts as a Limited Partner (LP) and invests in Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) registered with SEBI. These AIFs will then invest in Indian start-ups through equity and equity-linked instruments.

Also called daughter funds, AIFs are required to deploy in startups at least double the amount they received. According to data available on the SIDBI website, ₹16,636 Crore have been invested in start-ups by AIFs under FFS and 888 start-ups supported as of August 16, 2023.

"Now the share of Indian capital in the whole alternative investments space including equity, debt, and other products has gone up significantly, which is strong progress. Big institutions like HDFC, Nippon, and Kotak are also launching their fund of funds. That means there is growing demand for a product like it," Mr. Pai points out.

According to him while states announcing incentives to start-ups from the region has been helpful, replicating the FFS model at a state level would help them set priorities to focus on sectors that are important to each state.

"The national fund of funds will define very broad priorities, whereas a state FoF can focus on specific local production and SMEs," he notes.

Beyond start-ups

By now a vibrant funding ecosystem exists for start-ups in Bengaluru. But the same is not the case for SMEs or start-ups from other parts of the state. Industry players feel that a state-wise FoF, to an extent, could bridge this gap.

"When we think of funds, we mostly think of start-ups. But start-ups are a very small corner of the overall SME market. Unfortunately, VCs and tech funds do not always invest in companies in domains such as contract manufacturing or logistics," Mr. Pai points out.

Given venture capital firms look for a major tech or IP component in companies and, therefore, not a great source of equity capital for good SMEs in the state, it is important to have non-tech funds, he notes. "Hopefully, the state fund of funds can focus more on them (SMEs) and help them grow."

Beyond Bengaluru

Madan Padaki, serial entrepreneur and president of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Bangalore chapter, is of the opinion that the state-wise Fund of Funds must focus largely on start-ups from beyond Bengaluru.

According to him, a dearth of funding for start-ups in places like Mysuru, Hubbali, and Mangaluru forces entrepreneurs to relocate to Bengaluru.

In 2022, The Government of Karnataka sanctioned the establishment of a ₹75 Crore 'Beyond Bengaluru cluster seed fund' for start-ups from Mysuru, Hubbali-Dharwad and Mangaluru clusters in association with Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), Karnataka Trustee Company Pvt Ltd (KAMCO) and Karnataka Asset Management Company Pct Ltd (KATCO).

A seed fund of ₹25 Crore was announced for the Mysuru cluster in August.

"The state-wise FoF proposal dovetails well into the cluster seed fund initiative," says Mr. Padaki.

"If 80 per cent of a ₹5,000 crore fund is diverted to five cities or clusters in Karnataka, each cluster gets Rs 200 Crore. It is a huge amount of money and can really unlock the ecosystem there. For the money that is being poured into Bengaluru, it is a small amount. But it can be really significant if it moves to non-Bengaluru startups," he adds.

Demographic focus

On top of geography, the FoF should also have domain and demographic dimensions according to Mr. Padaki. While in terms of domain, it could be deployed in sectors such as tourism, local art, local manufacturing and so on that could drive the local economy, in terms of demographics it could also be explored whether a part of the fund could be earmarked for women entrepreneurs, ventures by persons with disabilities and so on, he notes.

Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO and director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) feels a state-wise FoF and the government's participation as an LP would augment private risk funding in the region.

"That is important because it is all the more needed in life sciences or the big science segments. Classical funding has focused much more on tech than on deep science," he says.

"With FoF there will be an opportunity for the government to identify, select and attract investors and funds geared more towards deep science. With state-wise FoF you are not only supporting local startups but are also building an ecosystem of local capital funds."

Democratising access

While the start-up funding ecosystem in India has been thriving, it is also to be noted that most of the capital flowing in has been foreign. Only a mere 10 per cent of the inbound capital is domestic.

Mr. Padaki believes one of the reasons could simply be that the larger LPs around the world - the kinds of Ontario Teachers' Pension Fund - are sitting on tons of money and even a small percentage of it would mean a lot of capital.

"In India, we don't have that kind of capital," he notes.

Some of the largest pools of capital in the country include banks, insurance companies and mutual funds. Strict regulations govern investments by such institutions in AIFs.

"We need stable regulations and simple boundary definitions for Indian capital spanning 10-20 years to invest in this asset class," says Mr. Pai.

According to him domestic capital has been catching up in India with institutional capital from insurance companies, banks, mutual funds, family offices and large corporations flowing into in VC funds.

"But India needs more capital for sure. There can be other types of funds such as debt funds, and sector-specific funds that government schemes can invest in and encourage. Fund of funds is more to democratise access and to support the launch of a wider variety of funds," he notes.

A state-wise FoF may also help deepen the government's relationship with start-ups and give way to several follow-on effects. Mr. Pai notes that under the FoF, the government could look at giving grants for patent filing which is an expensive affair, or give money to university accelerators and incubators.

Building an ecosystem

As per reports SIDBI has been seeing impressive initial returns with the national fund of funds. While that's encouraging, experts note that the focus of a FoF should be more on creating enabling environments for investments than getting into the 'returns' aspect of it.

"When you are a portfolio manager, you look at the internal rate of return (IRR). But when there is public money coming in, we should also look at the social benefits that the fund will unlock," says Mr. Padaki. He notes that the objective of the government is to not make money from investing in startups and if the government starts behaving like any other LP, then it becomes meaningless.

"Can the fund of funds generate an ecosystem in 10 other districts? Can this fund give rise to 10 unicorns from beyond Bengaluru in, say, five years? Or can it unlock, say, 400,000 jobs? It is important to look into what is the unique angle that deployment of money by the government has opened up for the welfare of the state."

An evening in the memory of Navroze Contractor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In memory of leading cinematographer, Navroze Contractor, who passed away earlier this year in June, the Bangalore International Centre in collaboration with Vikalp, Bengaluru, will be screening the absurdist comedy, Hun Hunshi Hunshilal.

The musical fable, which is set in a fictitious country called Khojpuri infested by mosquitoes that are causing unrest among its citizens, causing them to rebel against a despotic ruler, was first released in 1992. Directed by Sanjiv Shah and shot by Contractor, Hun Hunshi Hunshilal, also tells the story of Hunshi, an ordinary scientist who joins the battle against the mosquito menace, falls in love with Parveen, a colleague who happens to come from the land of the mosquitoes, eventually joining the battle against the king.

The event will take place between 6.30 and 9.30 p.m September 29 at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. The screening will be followed by a discussion, attended by Sanjiv Shah.

Twisted aorta and a failed valve replacement successfully treated with Hybrid TAVR

She developed persistent and progressive heart failure, along with multi-organ dysfunction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 64-year-old woman, who presented with a twisted and tortuous aorta, got a new lease of life following a surgery at a private hospital in the city.

The patient had a failed aortic tissue valve replacement leading to heart failure and multiorgan dysfunction. Doctors at Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta, who treated the woman claimed this is the first reported such case being treated with hybrid TAVR (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement) procedure. The woman, Hamsaveni, a known case of diabetes and hypertension, had previously undergone aortic valve replacement and Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) surgery ten years ago at a private hospital in the city due to a congenital valve disorder. However, recently she began experiencing dizziness, chest discomfort and breathlessness prompting her to seek medical attention at her previous hospital. There she was diagnosed with single-vessel coronary artery disease. It was revealed that the prosthetic valve implanted during her previous surgery had failed, resulting in severe re-narrowing of the blood vessel. Unfortunately, the hospital declined treatment due to the complex nature of her condition.

Owing to the delay in treatment, her condition worsened three months ago with symptoms becoming increasingly unresponsive to medication. She developed persistent and progressive heart failure, along with multi-organ dysfunction for which she was admitted at Fortis Bannerghatta.

"On evaluation, we found that her aorta (largest artery in the body that carries blood away from the heart) was abnormally thickened and calcified (hardened by the deposits of calcium). It was also abnormally twisted and tortuous. Further, the previously replaced prosthetic valve was abnormally tilted to the extent that tracking a new valve became highly challenging. Also, it posed a high risk of blocking the coronary blood vessel leading to heart attack on the operating table," said Vivek Jawali, chairman, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Sciences at the hospital.

Srinivas Prasad, Senior Consultant - Interventional Cardiology at the hospital said, "Considering the complex situation, initially we planned for a high-risk hybrid TAVR procedure. This involved Minimally Invasive Direct Coronary Artery Bypass for grafting the right coronary artery followed by TAVR. However, while inducing anesthesia, the patient experienced a cardiac arrest and multiorgan failure, which led to a change in plans."

"She was immediately shifted to the Cath lab for an emergency TAVR, wherein a catheter was passed through a blood vessel in the groin and guided to the aortic valve through the twisted aorta and tilted valve using innovative techniques. The new valve was then deployed to restore proper blood flow. The procedure was conducted successfully employing various precautionary strategies so that coronary blood flow is not compromised," he explained.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 29, 1973

MLAs Call for Vigorous Procurement Drive

Bangalore, Sept. 28: During the debate on the food situation in Mysore Assembly to-day, members stressed that the procurement policy of the Government should be pursued vigorously and honestly.

Other points made included the removal of the ban on the inter-district movement of the grains in the State and the proper functioning of the newly created Food Corporation.

Mr. Rajashekara Murthy (Cong-O), former Industries Minister, felt that the procurement prices likely to be offered to the farmers were not enough. He attributed the failure of the procurement scheme last year to the low prices offered. He said that if the Food Corporation formed by the State Government were to work effectively, it should resort to open market operations.

Increase in Alarm Chain Misuse on Railways

Bangalore, Sept. 28: There has been an increase in the incidence of alarm chain pulling on the Southern Railway. Mr. B.L.C Sastri, Chief Operating Superintendent and Chairman of the Zonal Timetable Committee, told a meeting of the Committee here to-day that during the period from April 1 to August 31, 1973 there were 3,246 cases of alarm chain pulling as against 2,334 cases during the corresponding period last year. That had to some extent affected the punctual running of trains. The committee had met to finalize the timings for the November 1973 timetables.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

Early years of planning

Mysore State, under the rule of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, planned the construction of a wood distillation plant and blast furnace in Bhadravathi.
Though there was a detailed plan for the project, it got delayed due to the World War that started in 1914. Finally, the work began in 1918, under the guidance of Dewan Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

Ore extraction at Kemmanagundi

The company started the extraction of iron ore at Kemmanagundi Iron Ore Mines, a captive mine of the company, in 1923. And the production of pig iron kicked off in the charcoal furnace the same year. Sir M. Visvesaraya, who had resigned as Dewan of Mysuru State by then, was requested to head the board that managed the company.

Steel production picks up

The company was named Mysore Iron and Steel Works, as the steel making started. Gradually, the production increased. New facilities were added to the plant, and the number of employees also increased. Expansion activities improved the financial returns too. As the company grew, Bhadravathi town also developed and it earned the name – Steel Town.

Named after Visvesvaraya

Recognising the role of former Mysuru Diwan M. Visvesvarayana in building the company, it was renamed Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited on February 16, 1976. The company and its employees observe his birth anniversary as Engineers' Day on September 15 every year. A museum has been set up in his name on the campus.

Subsidiary of Steel Authority

The VISL became a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited in 1989. Later in 1998, the plant was merged with SAIL. Now the plant is undergoing a difficult phase. The Union Government has taken a decision for the strategic disinvestment of VISL. The employees of the plant and the residents of Bhadravathi are opposing it.

Iconic VISL at 100 is a pale shadow of its old self

Visionary ruler Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and the Dewan of Mysore State Sir M. Visvesvaraya made Bhadravati an industrial hub.
Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited set up by the Mysuru rulers is now a shadow of its old self as it turns 100

Sathish G. T.
BHADRAVATHI

After driving about 280 km from Bengaluru on Bengaluru-Honnavar Road, a hoarding -- "Welcome to Steel Town" -- greets travellers. Bhadravathi, the town on the banks of the river Bhadra, has earned the title of "Steel Town" because of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, a 100-year-old industry set up by the Mysuru rulers.

Visionary ruler Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and the Dewan of Mysore State Sir M. Visvesvaraya were instrumental in setting up the industry that brought name and fame to the town. Though it started as a small unit with limited capacity in 1923, over the years it increased its production and offered jobs to thousands of people for several decades. The industry, now merged with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), is facing the same crisis that it faced in its initial years.

The Mysore rulers understood the need for an industry for iron production in the early years of the 20th century. By then, Tata Iron and Steel had been set up in Jamshedpur. In those days, coal was the primary fuel for iron production. Considering the non-availability of fuel in the nearby area, the State decided to go for the use of wood charcoal obtained from the neighbouring forests. The State took the services of USA-based engineering consultants Messrs. Perin and Marshall to design the unit. The same consultant had designed the Tata unit at Jamshedpur.

A view of blast furnace on VISL campus at Bhadravathi.

World War hampers pace

Due to the First World War that began in 1914, the construction work could not take off as planned. Finally, it started in 1918, and it was estimated to be completed in 18 months. The state had a tie-up with Tata Sons Ltd. for the supply of machinery.

The construction took five years. By then, the price of iron had come down globally. Many, including the consultant engineer, suggested the rulers stop the construction until the prices normalised. Visvesvaraya had resigned over the differences with the rulers on constituting the Miller Committee.

The Maharaja did not give up his plan, despite the sudden fall of iron prices in the global market. He felt M. Visvesvaraya was the right person to head the unit and bring it on the right path. He sent his Dewan to meet Visvesvaraya in Mumbai and persuaded him to take over the unit.As he also genuinely felt the need for such an industry in Mysuru State, he agreed to head the board of management. He was given a free hand to make decisions.

Sir MV's words

Visvesvaraya was at the helm of affairs for six years, and that laid a strong foundation for the company. Within a short period, the industry flourished. In his farewell address on September 24, 1929, Visvesvaraya said, "During the last six years, the operations have been reduced to a system, the cost of collection and transport of raw materials brought down to the level originally estimated, the output maintained at a satisfactory level, and the cost of production reduced by more than 50%. A local staff has been trained for the various positions, and methods of modern administration have been introduced on the plant. The works have gradually been made to pay their way." He has recorded this statement in his autobiography, *Memories of My Working Life*.

Visvesvaraya's leadership in building the plant was well appreciated by Mr. Perin, the expert who designed the project. During his visit to the plant in 1927, he was highly impressed with the work done. He conveyed his opinion to Visvesvaraya and the Maharaja as well. The Maharaja was happy, particularly for the reason that Visvesvaraya had been able to dispense with all American labour and ensure the plant was entirely managed by the local staff. "It is an achievement of which the State should be proud of,", said Maharaja in his congratulatory message to Visvesvaraya on February 12, 1927.

The growth story

The saga continued on a similar path for several decades. Mr. Visvesvaraya visited the unit in January, 1950, thirty years after he left the office. In his speech, Visvesvaraya noted how big the unit had grown financially. "By 1949, the gross value of products had risen to ₹1.69 crores and the net returns to ₹13.1 lakhs, or 6%, on the capital". Further, he said, "With the expansion and development in several stages of progress, the capital value will increase to nearly ₹5 crore, and in the next two or three years' time, they are likely to yield a net income annual to the government of the order of half a crore," he said. The company has retained the office where he worked, and a museum has been set up in his memory. The museum has rare photos, along with a model of the entire campus.

The unit expanded its activities, gradually increasing the work force as well. It had captive mines at Kemmannugundi, Bandigudda, and Balekallgudda. The alloys and special steels produced in the plant had high demand in different fields. For marketing the products, branch offices were opened in Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur, and Pune. The company fulfilled the requirements of Indian Railways and the defence sector, among other clients. By March 2003, as many as 3,034 people were working at the plant. The plant collaborated with steel industries in the UK, USA, Austria, Australia, and Norway. Whenever the plant expanded its production and added new facilities, the employees were trained abroad on operating the advanced machinery.

The plant is spread over 3.8 sqkm in Bhadrathi. The production activities included a blast furnace, a steel-making shop, rolling mills, a forge plant, a heat treatment shop, and a finishing shop, among other facilities. The employees had a hospital on the campus and schools for their children. When the production was at its peak and the company was doing well financially, it ran 11 schools, including at the mining points. The plant has the installed capacity to produce 2.16 lakh tonnes of hot metal and 98,280 tonnes of alloys and special steels.

The tough phase

The company has gone through a tough phase. Due to the tough competition from the private sector, the public sector unit could not survive the fall in income. Besides that, there were hardly any efforts to modernise the production. The company was declared a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited in 1989, and later it was merged with SAIL (1998). With that, the company lost its independent status.

As of September 1, 2023, there are only 250 permanent employees, including 50 executives. As many as 1,278 people have been working on a contract basis. However, L.Praveen Kumar, General Manager (HR and PR), maintained that the productivity had improved after the SAIL took over. "With the minimum employees, the company is doing well. Apart from production, regular maintenance, security operations and administration of the plant are going on," he said. The officer refused to comment on the proposed strategic disinvestment of the plant.

The existing employees have often alleged that the SAIL did not give attention to reviving the plant. In August 2016, the NITI Ayog recommended the strategic disinvestment of VISP. The recommendation was approved by the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs and the SAIL Board, necessitating that the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management invited the Expression of Interest on July 4, 2019. However, in October 2022, due to insufficient bidder interest, the Union Government annulled the transaction for strategic disinvestment in the plant. Earlier this year, the SAIL Board decided to close the plant.

A hoarding "Welcome to Steel Town" greets the travellers .

This was communicated to the employees on January 18, the day when they were preparing for VISP's founder's day. Since then, the employees have been opposing the move. The permanent employees under the leadership of J. Jagadish, and contract workers under the leadership of H.G. Suresh, staged protests. Leaders of political parties extended support for their protests ahead of the assembly elections.

Politics around plant

Shivamogga Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra recently announced that the SAIL board has decided to resume production activity in VISP, backtracking from its earlier decision to close the unit. As a result, mill operations have resumed. However, the Ministry of Steel has not cleared the plant from strategic disinvestment. Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister of State for Steel, in a reply to an unstarred question in parliament, reiterated the disinvestment plan.

"The VISL now needs a ruler like Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and an administrator like Visvesvaraya to look after the management so that it is revived back to its past glory," opined a permanent employee.

Event planned to mark 100 years

Sathish G. T.
SHIVAMOGGA

The employees and ex-employees of VISL have joined hands to hold a two-day event on November 4 and 5 to mark 100 years of the company that gave them jobs. The organisers are inviting old employees, representatives of Wadiyar's family, besides elected representatives for the programme.

The VISL contributed to the development of Bhadravathi in numerous ways. The industry attracted many people from neighbouring states and districts to move in, looking for jobs. It helped many auxiliary industries come up. "The roads were busy whenever the workers' shift changed. Hundreds of employees would come out of the main gate, flooding the roads of the city. It is not like that now," recalls Girish, a resident of the city.

Doddanna, a popular Kannada film personality who worked for the company for 20 years starting in 1968, is on the organizing committee. "Those days nearly 16,000 people were working for the company. The entire campus was busy. I worked in the new rolling mills and other sections," he said to *The Hindu*.

He is also disappointed with the present situation the industry is in. "We should not let the company close. It helped thousands of families all these 100 years. Both the State and Centre governments should work to revive it. We will be putting pressure on the government through our programme," he said.

A.P. govt. files caveat in top court against Naidu's SLP in scam case

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government filed a caveat in the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking to be duly heard before a decision was taken on the SLP filed by the former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu against the dismissal of his quash petition by the A.P. High Court in the skill development case.

Justice K. Sreenivasa Reddy of the High Court had refused to interfere in the matter, saying that it was not proper on his part to concede the plea when 'the investigation was on the fulcrum of attaining finality' and a 'mini-trial' could not be conducted at that stage.

Aggrieved by this, Mr. Naidu filed the SLP in the top court, which posted it to October 3 after Justice S.V.N. Bhatti had recused himself..

Mr. Naidu's basic contention was that the registration of the FIR was barred by Section17-A of the Prevention of Corruption Act as it related to official acts of public servants.

The High Court ought to have seen that the registration of the FIR and all consequent actions of the respondents (Mangalagiri SHO, CID and Chairman, AP State Skill Development), including his remand, suffered from patent illegalities. Therefore, the impugned judgment was unsustainable in law, Mr. Naidu maintained.

Delay in lifting suspension over YTPS-EC after compliance of issues to cost Telangana dearly

Ministry of Environment and Forests not appraising compliance report even after Ministry of Power's suggestion to clear it

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

A view of the Yadadri Thermal Power Station coming up at Veerlapalem in Naglonda district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Telangana State Power Generation Corporation (TSGenco), which is establishing the 5×800 megawatt Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS) with plans to commission two units by December-end to meet the energy demand during the rabi/summer season, is keeping its fingers crossed in the matter of lifting suspension over Environmental Clearance by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF).

Lifting of suspension over EC is necessary for installation of machinery and to go for trial run although construction work was not barred by the Southern Zone Bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) while suspending the EC on September 30 last year, citing some violations in compliance of regulations as complained by two NGOs – Conservation Action Trust (Mumbai) and Samatha (Visakhapatnam).

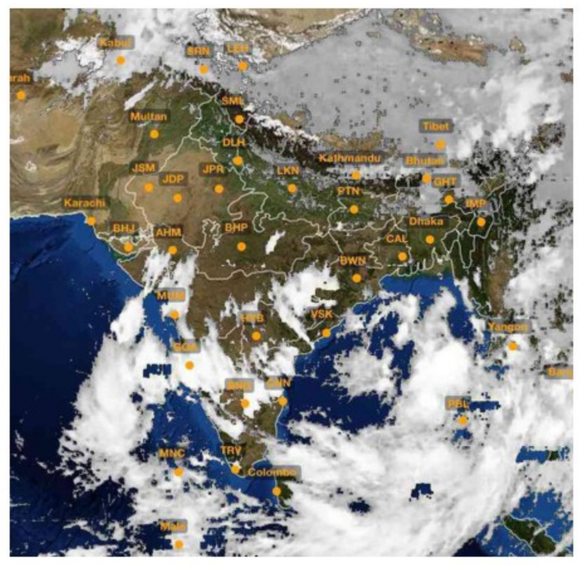
A senior executive of TSGenco told *The Hindu* that they have complied with all the three issues raised by NGT in about six months against the nine months' time given by the Tribunal and submitted the compliance report for appraisal by an expert committee of MoEF to lift suspension over EC. However, there has been no response from MoEF for three months now, he pointed out. While suspending the EC, the NGT had raised issues of wildlife sanctuary/animal corridor, ambient air quality and impact of change in sourcing of coal supply for the first supercritical ultra-mega power project coming up in the State sector in the country.

The TSGenco authorities stated that no wildlife sanctuary falls in the 10-km radius of the project site as required under provisions for EC and it was certified by the Chief Warden of Wildlife. On the issue of ambient air quality raised by NGT, the project authorities said fresh studies were conducted and found no possibility of any adverse impact.

The issue of air quality with use of 100% local (Singareni Collieries) instead of 50% each blend of local and imported coal as planned initially was also got studied and no impact as the power project would have mandatory flu gas desulphurization (FGD) chambers to minimise the sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions into air to permissible levels.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal & interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.8	27.0	Kozhikode	12	29.7	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	35.5	25.8	Kurnool	—	33.5	25.1
Aizawl	—	35.0	23.4	Lucknow	—	35.3	26.5
Allahabad	—	35.2	27.1	Madurai	12	36.2	24.5
Bengaluru	—	27.8	—	Mangaluru	43	27.8	23.2
Bhopal	—	33.3	23.0	Mumbai	30	33.6	23.9
Bhubaneswar	—	34.3	25.8	Mysuru	7	30.0	23.2
Chandigarh	—	34.5	21.7	New Delhi	—	35.2	22.2
Chennai	35	35.1	24.7	Patna	—	34.8	27.5
Coimbatore	—	32.5	23.0	Port Blair	154	26.6	23.7
Dehradun	—	32.8	20.9	Puducherry	—	34.5	25.8
Gangtok	0.3	23.8	17.9	Pune	7.6	31.6	21.8
Goa	4.6	29.5	23.4	Raipur	—	33.2	25.7
Guwahati	—	36.4	25.6	Ranchi	5	30.8	22.7
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	—	27.8	17.0
Hyderabad	22	33.5	22.6	Shimla	—	25.5	14.8
Imphal	—	33.1	20.9	Srinagar	—	27.5	9.7
Jaipur	—	34.4	23.3	Thiruvananthapuram	8	30.9	23.7
Kochi	15	27.4	24.8	Tiruchi	—	35.4	25.0
Kohima	—	23.2	12.2	Vijayawada	—	35.0	26.2
Kolkata	—	35.5	27.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.5	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.15	.84	.44	123	142	
Bengaluru	6	.28	.70	59	88	
Chennai	4	.99	.40	18	32	
Delhi	.15	.52	.42	239	118	
Hyderabad	8	.40	.20	85	93	
Kolkata	.20	.33	.27	55	78	
Lucknow	.27	.20	.14	154	128	
Mumbai	.22	.21	.50	85	114	
Pune	132	220	110	53	47	
Visakhapatnam	6	.45	.26	67	102	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Siwan, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 348 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Suspected Maoists vandalise Kerala forest office

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA

A group of armed persons, suspected to be Maoists, vandalised the office of the Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) at Kambamala, near Thalappuzha, in Wayanad around noon on Thursday.

Six armed persons barged into the office and broke the glass panels of the reception counter of the office, according to KFDC officials.

They destroyed furniture, computers, a photocopy machine, a printer, and a phone at the reception counter. The group left the area after shouting slogans and sticking posters demanding that better houses be provided to workers of the Kambamala tea estate, the officials said.

The estate workers are reportedly living in asbestos sheds. Posters in Malayalam and Tamil on behalf of the CPI(Maoist) Kabani area committee read: 'Distribute plantations to landless workers and tribal people, join the armed rebellion to escape from the wretched lives in the estate lanes and to be an owner of plantations."

The group shouted slogans, and pasted posters demanding that better houses be provided to workers of the tea estate

An office manager and a worker were present at the office. However, the armed group, which spoke Tamil, did not harm the employees.

The police attached to the Thalappuzha and Mananthavady stations conducted a quick search in the area.

The Kambamala tea estate, bordering the Kottiyoor and Periya forest ranges in Wayanad and Kannur districts respectively, was started in the 1970s to rehabilitate refugees from Sri Lanka. Close to 200 refugee families have been staying on the estate.

One of the posters that was reportedly pasted by a group of Maoists at the Kerala forest office on Thursday.

Education survey to test 3.2 lakh Kerala students

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The State Educational Achievement survey will test as many as 3.2 lakh students in 10,789 schools in Kerala.

Conducted by PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), a national assessment centre set up under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), the survey that will be held on November 3 will test students' learning competencies in Classes 3, 6, and 9.

The exercise will be held in 29,000 classrooms and has a huge sample size of nearly one lakh students in each of the classes.

The survey will provide feedback on student learning at the block level to design pedagogical interventions at the grass roots.

Devotees safe after Tirumala-bound bus meets with accident

The APSRTC bus that met with an accident on the second ghat ghat road, on Thursday.

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

About 40 passengers on board a Tirumala-bound Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) bus had a miraculous escape when the vehicle in which they were travelling met with an accident on the second ghat road leading to Tirumala.

The mishap took place when the driver lost control over the bus and hit against a rock beside the road before coming to a halt, about four kilometres ahead of reaching the town.

Fortunately there were no casualties and all of them escaped with minor injuries.

Vehicular traffic was briefly disrupted for about twenty minutes and was restored later.

SI becomes Deputy Collector

A.D. Rangarajan
TIRUPATI

K. Swaathi, a Sub-Inspector in Tirupati, received a fitting farewell from the department on Thursday after she clinched eighth rank in the Group-I examinations held recently and was selected a Deputy Collector.

Born in Guravanahalli near Hindupur in Sri Satya Sai District, Ms. Swaathi completed M.Sc. Chemistry at Sri Venkateswara University and got selected in an SI test in 2017. After finishing her training, the officer got posted as a probationary SI in Tiruchanur and was then shifted to Gajulamandyam to serve as Station House Officer. She was then posted at Srikalahasti Two Town police station as an SI before getting inducted into the Special Branch.

She went on long leave in 2021 and prepared for Group-I examinations, which she cracked recently. Ms. Swaathi is currently a trainee Deputy Collector in Guntur. She is married to Mahesh, a software engineer from Ongole.

Delhi developments force Lokesh to put on hold resumption of padayatra

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national general secretary N. Lokesh has postponed the resumption of his Yuva Galam padayatra proposed from Friday.

Mr. Lokesh, who is now staying put in New Delhi, is said to have taken the decision to enable him to deal with the situation arising from the hearing of the SLP filed in the Supreme Court by his father and former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu against the High Court's dismissal of his quash petition in the skill development scam case, and the likely fallout of the cases faced by himself.

Mr. Lokesh had suspended his padayatra at Razole, where he was camping the night before Mr. Naidu's arrest at Nandyal on September 9.

N. Lokesh

He is keen on resuming it on Friday, with the main focus on the arrest of his father, but has put it on hold as Mr. Naidu's SLP is likely to come up for hearing in the apex court on October 3.

Moreover, Mr. Lokesh is facing an imminent arrest in the Amaravati Inner Ring Road (IRR) alignment case after being added in it by the CID as A-14.

He had suspended Yuva Galam at Razole, where he was camping the night before the arrest of his father and former Chief Minister Naidu at Nandyal on September 9 in the skill scam case

Mr. Lokesh had left for the national capital about two weeks ago. He met President Droupadi Murmu recently. He is in constant touch with senior advocates who are fighting the cases faced by his father, and is forced to stay back to meet any contingency.

12-year-old girl raped, killed in Andhra Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

A girl, aged about 12, was raped and murdered allegedly by her uncle in Bhimavaram Town in Andhra Pradesh.

The victim was reported missing since September 26. Her parents searched in vain and lodged a complaint the next day. The police found the body in a canal near her house on Thursday.

The police have taken the victim's uncle into custody. The police said the girl's parents were labourers and went out for work when the incident happened. The accused was a mason and was staying alone.

The police suspect that the accused might have taken the girl to his house, sexually assaulted her and threw the body in the canal after killing her.

T.N. govt. school students on cloud nine over Russia visit

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Clad in blue coats and trousers, 50 students of government schools across the State, are overwhelmed with joy as they are ready to visit Russia to have a first-hand experience in rocket and space science. They will be leaving Chennai on Saturday and return on October 7. Twelve teachers are also accompanying them.

They were among the 500 students who attended the online classes on rocket and space science conducted by A. Sivathanu Pillai, former Chief Executive Officer of BrahMos Aerospace and Chief Controller of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), when the country was reeling under the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students who have been chosen for the trip to Russia for a learning experience in rocket and space science. B.JOTHI RAMALINGAM

"We regularly conducted tests to filter the talents. The projects submitted by students were also taken into consideration to prepare the final list," said Mr. Pillai, who would lead the team. In Russia, the students could learn a lot, unlike the U.S. where access was limited. "But for the Ukraine war, the students can visit laboratories in Russia. The laboratories are busy because of the war," he said.

They would visit Rocket Technology and Petropavlovsk Fort Victory Tower, War Exhibition, Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre and other places and interact with cosmonauts. "It is just the beginning. Students have the capacity, and it is for the teachers to bring out their talents," he said.

Siva V. Meyyanathan, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, said a lot of students from government schools became famous space scientists. Former Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu, who felicitated the students, said the students should be closely monitored as they were capable of reaching great heights.

"Everyone is born with talents. Only exposure and opportunity will make them great," he said.

The entire initiative was coordinated by Agathiya Rocket Science Programme.

Cong. should give more tickets to BC candidates than BRS: leaders

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

As the Backward Classes (BCs) in Telangana Congress raise demand for a fair share in the allocation of tickets, the party is confident that it will accommodate more than what the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has done.

Of the 119 seats in Telangana, the BRS has given seats to 22 BC candidates and the Congress leaders say they are confident that the party will cross that number at any cost. This is not only to stem the criticism from the BRS but also within the party.

Ever since the Screening Committee met in New Delhi, BC leaders within the party have formed a pressure group to press for higher representation to BC communities to recognise their services and also to tap the vote bank.

The BC leaders' argument is that the BRS has given tickets to only 22 BC candidates and this has caused heartburn among those communities.

Some strong communities within the BCs like Mudirajs are angry that not a single candidate from the community was recognised by the BRS party. Congress should not make such mistakes, as the party is known for delivering social justice.

Earlier, a delegation of BC leaders met the TPCC president A. Revanth Reddy and submitted a memorandum saying that it was his responsibility to ensure fair representation.

Free fall

India must cooperate on the Nijjar case if Canada provides evidence

India and Canada took their diplomatic row over the killing of Canadian Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar into the rink at the UN General Assembly this week. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar warned that the response to "terrorism, extremism and violence" should not be determined by "political convenience", in what seemed to be a reference to India's concerns over Khalistani extremism in Canada. He added that countries must not "cherry pick" when to respect "territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs" – a clear reference to Canada's allegations that Indian "government agents" were responsible for the Nijjar killing in Surrey in June. Canadian UN Ambassador Robert Rae appeared to double down on the Canadian allegations, as he spoke about the "extent to which democracies are under threat" due to foreign interference. In effect the statements reflected the impasse between both countries more than 10 days since Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made his claims in the Canadian Parliament. After expelling each other's diplomats, India and Canada have curtailed people-to-people ties. While India has suspended all visas to Canadians, Canada has put trade talks on hold. These actions have been taken even before Canada has made any evidence of its allegations against India public, and New Delhi has reiterated that despite two visits by the Canadian National Security Adviser to discuss the Nijjar issue, no concrete evidence has been provided. Nor has Canada completed its own investigation or begun any trial. Despite this, there have been calls from Canadian "Five Eyes" allies that India must cooperate, indicating some pressure from Canada.

The only way out is for Canada to take the first step in proving its allegations, which, in the absence of verifiable evidence, seem to have been levelled prematurely. Mr. Jaishankar has made it clear that such judicial inter-state killings are not the policy of the Indian government. However, it is hard to believe that the leader of one of the most developed countries would make these claims without sufficient cause, and if evidence is shared, the next logical step would be for New Delhi, which has denied the allegations strenuously, to cooperate on any information needed to conclude the Canadian investigation. India's grievances against Canada for "soft-peddling" the issue of Khalistan extremism and providing "safe havens" for wanted terrorists, as well as Canadian claims of rights violations by security forces in Punjab, and Indian intelligence operations in Canada, date back to the 1980s, and these were the cause of their high-level engagements being frozen for decades. However, never before have trade, travel and tourism ties been cut down so quickly as in the past week. With students, the business community, and the diaspora feeling the brunt, it is hoped the two countries move with some urgency to arrest the free fall in ties.

Caring for the old

India must attune its policies to ensure the elderly live a life of dignity

A good part of the world's population is growing older, and India mirrors this trend as well. The reality, according to the United Nations Population Fund's India Ageing Report 2023, is that the population above 60 years will double from 10.5% or 14.9 crore (as on July 1, 2022) to 20.8% or 34.7 crore by 2050. With one in five individuals set to be a senior citizen, there will be implications for health, economy, and society. In Kerala and West Bengal for instance, there is a growing population of the elderly who live alone as children migrate for better opportunities. With life expectancy increasing, thanks to better ways to fight disease, and decreasing fertility rates in many countries, including India, there are challenges in nurturing an expanding elderly population. Within this macro phenomenon, there are myriad other data of importance. For instance, women elderly citizens outnumber their male counterparts. At 60 years, a person in India may expect to live another 18.3 years, which is higher in the case of women at 19 years compared to men at 17.5 years. If women in India, where labour force participation is low at 24%, do not have economic and social security, they will become more vulnerable in old age.

There are also significant inter-State variations. Most States in the south reported a higher share of the elderly population than the national average in 2021, a gap that is expected to widen by 2036. While States with higher fertility rates, such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, expect to see an increase in the share of the elderly population too by 2036, the level will remain lower than the Indian average. Overall, more than two-fifths of the elderly are in the poorest wealth quintile – ranging from 5% in Punjab to 47% in Chhattisgarh; also, 18.7% of the elderly do not have any income. A high proportion of the rural population is among the elderly and often economically deprived. To meet the challenges, physical and mental health, basic needs of food and shelter, income security, and social care, a 'whole-of-society' approach is required. Geriatric care must be fine-tuned to their unique health-care needs. There are several schemes targeting the elderly but many are unaware of them or find it too cumbersome to sign up. The National Policy on Older Persons, 1999 and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 lay down the care of the elderly but to ensure that senior citizens live in dignity, public and private policies must provide a more supportive environment.

A milestone in Hindu marriage reform in India

S. Anandhi
is a retired professor from the Madras Institute of Development Studies

S. Suriya
is Assistant Professor at the Madras School of Social Work

'Suyamariyathai Seerthirutha Thirumanam', or self-respect marriage, in Tamil Nadu, has had to cross hurdles such as judicial and executive interpretations

Nearly 56 years after the enactment of the Hindu Marriage (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act 1967, young Illavarasan, from Tamil Nadu, never thought that his *Suyamariyathai* marriage that was performed and validated under this Act could be invalidated and criminalised by the same Madras High Court which, in 1953, in *Chidambaram Chettiar vs Deivanai Achi*, had declared such marriages to be null and void since they did not follow the Hindu marriage rituals.

Of course, the ground on which resistance to *Suyamariyathai thirumanam* (marriage) came up is different today than it was in 1953 when Madras did not have a law to support such radically reformed no-ritual marriages among Hindus. On August 28, 1953, quoting *Manusmriti*, the judges observed that solemnisation by a priest and *Saptapadi* was required for a lawful Hindu marriage, and declared that self-respect marriages among professed Hindus were invalid: they were not in conformity with marriages recognised under Hindu Law, and the children born were not legitimate under the law.

In another case, in 1958, when Rajathi, who had a self-respect marriage with Chelliah, sought court intervention for restitution of conjugal rights, a district court in Tiruchi denied her the right on the ground that her marriage was invalid under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. Instead, the court castigated the self-respect movement for the plight of young women in such 'illegal' marriages, which, in the judiciary's view, had led to the denial of their conjugal rights. These interpretations were aimed at discrediting reformed marriages, which were typically inter-caste weddings performed with the objective of protecting women's rights and promoting ideals of companionate marriage. These judgments led the judiciary and Brahminic Hindus to demean the self-respect marriage practice, labelling women in such marriages as concubines and children born as illegitimate. They revealed how some in the judiciary mobilised commonly held hegemonic ideals of Hindu marriage practices to counter Dravidian notions of alternative non-Brahminic marriage practices.

A basis of the self-respect movement

One of the important claims of the self-respect movement was that all forms of customary and traditional Hindu marriages, mainly the Brahmanical ones, upheld caste supremacy and the patriarchal rights of men. The movement advocated that a man and a woman should enter a dissoluble contract to form a conjugal relationship without conforming to any religious practices. Further, in the context of widely practised bigamy among Hindu men, the movement advocated the civil registration of all marriages and upheld women's rights to dissolve the marriage, remarry, and claim their rights in property. The court, on the other hand, by denying the validity of self-respect marriage, denied Rajathi her conjugal rights. Subsequently, in 1969, after the Hindu Marriage Amendment Act in 1967 which legalised the *Suyamariyathai thirumanam*, Rajathi successfully claimed the restitution of her conjugal rights after a new trial.

A struggle

The making of this legislation meant a protracted struggle for the Dravidian movement in the Madras Presidency and also at the all-India level at a time when the Hindu Code Bill was drafted. In 1944, when the Hindu Law Committee headed by B.N. Rau was gathering evidence across presidencies to draft the Hindu Code Bill, the memorandums and oral evidence submitted by the leaders and activists of the Self-Respect movement demanded not just a few piecemeal changes to Hindu law but also for women's legal rights over all other concerns of Hindus in general.

Kunjitham Gurusamy of the Self-Respect movement argued that the definition of the 'Hindu' was not comprehensive enough to include all those who did not profess the religion, and that non-religious marriages needed to be recognised under the new Hindu code. Unfortunately, the Rau Committee report of 1947 did not acknowledge these demands. It recognised and affirmed the legal status of Virasaiva, Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj and Prarthana Samaj marriages; thus the Hindu Marriage Act 1955 granted legal status only to these reformed marriages.

Clause 7 of the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 gave importance to 'Hindu' rites and ceremonies including the *Saptapadi* and recognised only customary rites and ceremonies such as *thali* tying, and not the non-ritualistic and anti-Purohit Hindu contractual weddings. The unanimous response of Parliament and the judiciary was that self-respect marriages should be registered under the Special Marriage Act, 1954. This Act was passed in Parliament without giving much thought to the property rights of couples in civil marriage, which meant separation from the Hindu joint family and denial of rights over ancestral property.

In the case of Chidambaram Chettiar vs Deivanai Achi, the Madras High Court suggested to the Congress party-led Madras legislature that it take the initiative to legitimise self-respect marriages and protect the property rights of Hindus who had adopted non-religious marriage practices. In 1953, the Madras government decided to introduce the 'Hindu Non-Conformist Marriage Registration Bill, 1954', but despite it being taken up for consideration, was withdrawn and even rejected by the same government on the ground that the Special Marriage Act 1954 would cover the provisions for self-respect marriages.

In 1959, S.M. Annamalai of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) introduced the 'Madras Suyamariyathai Marriage Validation Bill' to legalise self-respect marriages with retrospective effect. It was opposed by Congress legislators while the CPI and the Praja Socialist Party remained neutral, leading to the defeat of the Bill. The DMK's introduction of the Bill in 1965 by S. Madhavan aimed to recognise self-respect marriages under Hindu law and validate them as valid Hindu marriages. The DMK argued that the invalidation of these marriages had negative consequences for the wife. By seeking legal recognition for self-respect marriages under Hindu law, the DMK aimed to give women the legal right to seek divorce, or redress in the case of bigamy. But the Bill went nowhere. When the DMK won the election in 1967, the Bill was introduced as Section 7 A, The Hindu Marriage (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act 1967. This Act, other than validating all non-ritual Hindu marriages, questioned the Brahminic interpretations of Hindu marriage.

There are still blocks

This amendment was radical enough to trouble the Union government (more so in recent years) as much as the judiciary, which was evident in the way they were either rejecting the validity of the amendment or by interpreting the amended Act in such a manner that would discourage non-ritual, consensual inter-caste marriages.

Two examples highlight this. In 2017, the Union Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment which was rewarding/awarding inter-caste couples refused to recognise the Section 7 Act and rejected applications from Tamil Nadu on the ground that these marriages were not registered under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court had to enlighten the obstinate Union Ministry on the validity of the legislation.

Last month, the Supreme Court of India had to remind the Madras High Court on the validity of *Suyamarithai* marriage in Tamil Nadu as they are performed without any religious practices and without any public ceremony, but through a declaration of marriage in the presence of relatives, friends, and other persons. However, one must remember that the cumulative effect of legal reforms for women in Tamil Nadu had a far-reaching impact in the various adjudications of the Madras High Court which held far more radical perspectives on gender rights in marriage than any other court in India as in a verdict that related to the registration of a transgender wedding under the Hindu Marriage Act.

Reform can address India's kidney transplant deficit

Jay Mehta
is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

Utkarsh Agrawal
is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

Jeevant Rampal
is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

Innovative kidney exchange methods face legal roadblocks, worsening a massive kidney shortage in the country

India's organ shortage when it comes to kidneys is alarming. In 2022, over two lakh patients needed a transplant, but there were only about 7,500 transplants (about 3.4%). Due to the prevalence of diabetes, malnourishment, overcrowding and poor sanitation, there is a high prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in India, affecting about 17% of the population. CKD often leads to end-stage renal disease (ESRD). A kidney transplant is often the best treatment for ESRD. Specifically, transplant is often better than alternatives on almost all dimensions that matter: quality of life, patient convenience, life expectancy, as well as cost-effectiveness. In contrast to India, the United States and other developed countries could carry out about 20% transplants. Notably, a significant portion of this gap is on account of more stringent regulations in India than a lack of medical facilities.

These are four main ways a patient can obtain a kidney. The first is to get a kidney from a deceased person. This is constrained due to a lack of donations, the particular conditions required on the nature of death, and the infrastructure needed to collect and store kidneys. The second is to request a relative or friend to donate. However, donor and recipient have to be compatible in terms of blood type and tissue type; such relative/friend donors are often incompatible.

A case for changes

Thus, regulations for kidney exchange are needed as kidney exchange must often occur across family units. But we argue that these regulations need urgent reform to unshackle two innovative kidney exchange methods: kidney 'swaps' and kidney 'chains'.

In kidney swap, let us take the example of two strangers, Sunita and Zoya, who need kidneys. Sunita's spouse is incompatible with her, and Zoya has the same problem. However, if Sunita's spouse is compatible with Zoya, and Zoya's spouse is compatible with Sunita, swap donations are possible. In kidney chain, let us look at the case of Sonu who is an altruistic donor donating his kidney with no expectation of a kidney in return. Sonu donates to Sunita (assuming compatibility), Sunita's spouse donates to Zoya, and Zoya's spouse donates to some other compatible person, and so on.

Our research shows that there are barely any swaps and almost no chains in India. This is because of legal roadblocks. And this is a significant opportunity missed with terrible consequences. Consider swaps. Swap transplants are legally allowed in India with due permission, but only near-relatives are allowed as donor-recipient pairs. Exceptions to this restriction are Kerala, Punjab and Haryana, where High Court judgments have recently allowed non-near-relative donor-recipient pairs after verification. Thus, in most States, if Sunita's donor is not a near relative (such as spouse, parents), she and her donor cannot participate in a swap. By contrast, it is legal for Sunita's non-near-relative to donate to her. These double standards across swaps and direct donations are questionable. Easing the laws for swaps to make them on a par with direct donations is necessary.

Further, unlike national, regional, and State lists for direct transplant from cadavers, there is no national coordinating authority for swaps. This is again a huge lost opportunity, since larger and more diverse pools make it easier to find compatible swaps.

While there are occasional swaps in India, there are almost no kidney chains. First, in all States except Kerala, it is illegal to donate a kidney out of altruism. Thus, one cannot start a chain since one cannot donate without getting a kidney (for a family member) in return. And, kidneys from the deceased or brain dead are only used for direct transplants, not for chains or cycles.

The lack of kidney chains is possibly an even bigger opportunity missed than swaps. While participating in swaps, families demand nearly simultaneous operations of all donors and recipients since no one wants to lose a kidney without gaining one. But in chains, each patient first receives a kidney and only then does their relative donate. Thus, chains, compared to swaps, involve significantly lower hospital resources and uncertainty for participants.

Needlessly harsh laws regulating swaps and chains have contributed to a proliferation of black markets for kidneys. 'Selling a kidney' to relieve financial distress is a mainstream reference. These black markets endanger all their desperate participants since these operations are conducted 'off the books', without due legal and medical safeguards.

At a slow pace

Reforms of kidney exchange laws have been slow. The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act 1994 set the ball rolling by recognising transplant possibility from brain-stem death. In the 2011 amendment, swap transplants were legalised, and a national organ transplant programme was initiated. But the national network remained underdeveloped initially. According to the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules 2014, swap transplants are allowed only for near relatives. The government's recent reforms (February 2023) allow more flexibility in age and domicile requirements while registering to obtain an organ. But these reforms leave the fundamental issue of inadequate kidney supply largely unaddressed. This is why it is beneficial to allow and encourage altruistic donation, non-near relative donation for swaps, and to improve the kidney-exchange infrastructure.

India does not need to innovate in order to reform chains and swaps. Sufficient precedents have been set globally. Australia, Canada, Israel, the Netherlands and the United States (among others) now allow altruistic donations. Spain and the United Kingdom have national-level registries for kidney chains and swaps. The U.S. has especially made progress in facilitating thousands of swaps and chains. Spain even has international collaborations for kidney exchange. India's real challenge, therefore, is to learn from and replicate such existing successful regulations to improve the lives of several thousands of citizens.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

M.S. Swaminathan

In the passing away of Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, India has lost one of its tallest sons. M.S. Swaminathan was a global leader of the Green Revolution and the main architect and guide in the field of agriculture research and technology. Many milestones could not have been achieved without his valuable guidance. That India has become self-sufficient and even able to export food grains is possible largely because of M.S. Swaminathan's contribution.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

M.S. Swaminathan was a scientist who saved millions of lives from starvation deaths. Equally, it was the ideal and efficient combination of Chidambaram Subramaniam as Agriculture Minister and M.S.S. that worked wonders for India. The dwarf variety of wheat resistant to rust aided wheat production.

A. Kaja Nazimudeen,
Eruvadi, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

Ageing in India

The 2023 India Ageing Report by the UNFPA should jolt our society and policymakers. Policymakers should focus on creating a supportive environment for our elderly citizens, especially women, in terms of income security, health care, and social involvement. Additionally, efforts to bridge the urban-rural divide in elderly care and tackle gender-based disparities must become a priority in the country.

Vishva Dev Patel,
Banswara, Rajasthan

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Should generative Artificial Intelligence be regulated?

Arul George Scaria

is an Associate Professor of Law at the National Law School of India

Trisha Ray

is a resident fellow at the Atlantic Council's GeoTech Centre

PARLEY

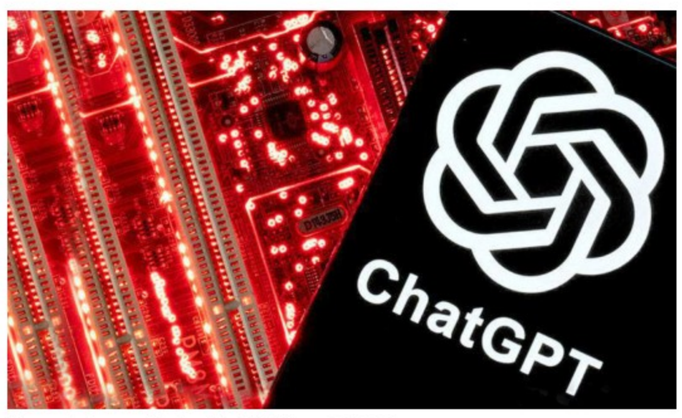
Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is like the proverbial genie out of the bottle. In less than a year, chatbots like ChatGPT, Bard, Claude, and Pi have shown what gen AI-powered applications can do. These tools have also revealed their vulnerabilities, which has pushed policymakers and scientists to think deeply about these new systems. Should generative AI be regulated? Arul George Scaria and Trisha Ray discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **John Xavier**. Edited excerpts:

What is the legal framework on which generative AI rests, and who owns content?

Arul George Scaria: This is an issue being discussed in jurisdictions across the globe, and different jurisdictions may eventually take different positions on it. So, let's start from a jurisdiction that has most clarity on it, which is the U.S. If you look at practices of the U.S. Copyright Office, as well as the approach taken by one of the U.S. courts in a recent decision, only human beings can own copyright. This means that most of the output generated by AI tools today is outside copyright protection. There is some noise around the need for copyright protections being given to companies involved in generative AI. But the position that the U.S. Copyright Office has taken is that there will be no copyright over these [AI-developed] works when it is not authored by a human.

This is in contrast with India's position. A couple of months ago, an intellectual property lawyer in India filed a copyright registration application for a painting. The initial application, claiming that the painting was generated by AI alone, was rejected. Subsequently, when he filed it as a jointly authored work, the copyright office accepted the application. This is a bizarre situation because we have not had any in-depth deliberations on whether AI-generated works are subject to copyright protection. So, the copyright office was jumping the gun when they granted joint authorship to a work which was generated by AI. And when the matter became a controversy, they issued a withdrawal notice to the human co-author. But when I checked the copyright office's website, it shows that the registration has not been revoked yet. This is a problematic situation. These two jurisdictions illustrate the kind of complexity in this area.

Trisha Ray: The U.S. is quite ahead, at least on starting to think about different approaches to how AI would interact with existing copyright law. The U.S. Copyright Office's guidance on generative AI only recognises copyright for works created by people. But AI is a little different, so we can see it in different ways. One is where I'm just giving a very basic prompt to a generative AI model. For example, 'write me a 300-word essay on copyright and generative AI'. Here, the AI is doing the most 'creative labour'. But when I, as a prompt engineer, give more detailed inputs and transform what the model has produced, I can arguably apply for copyright. So, it's still an evolving debate and there is no clear 'yes' or 'no' answer. Generative AI is new, at least in public consciousness, not new as a technology. We're still in the first few years of this debate coming into legal and policy circles and we are likely to see a more nuanced interpretation over time.



A smartphone with the ChatGPT logo REUTERS

How do you see the European Union's AI Act in the context of what is happening in the U.S. and India?

TR: In general, the way the EU has been regulating emerging tech and AI has been very focused on individual protections against large platforms and companies that dominate the market. I expect that to be an aspect to be taken into account in the EU's AI Act well. Another legal tool, the EU Digital Markets Act, is designed to level the playing field by imposing interoperability for the so-called 'gatekeeper' platforms. In the current landscape, when we think about who is building and investing in large language models and generative AI models, it is heavily concentrated towards large entities. ChatGPT is backed by Microsoft; Llama is backed by Meta. This is certainly one challenge that the EU AI Act might look into.

AGS: I would like to highlight two points from the EU AI Act. One, the transparency-related obligations it is trying to bring on, in terms of generative AI. For example, if something is generated through generative AI tools, then it needs to be tagged as material generated by an AI tool. That's important. Two, the suggestion to provide at least a short summary of the training material used, which is important from a copyright perspective. Whether all this will be successful or not, only time will tell.

> The EU is taking a risk-based approach wherein they are prohibiting certain kinds of practices and suggesting ex-ante assessments for certain others.
> ARUL GEORGE SCARIA

The EU is taking a risk-based approach wherein they are prohibiting certain kinds of practices and suggesting ex-ante assessments for certain others. With respect to limited-risk ones, they are bringing in transparency requirements. This kind of graded approach towards risk is important in the current context. The EU is taking bold initiatives and initiating discussions at the global level, which is remarkable.

Could you contrast the EU's graded approach with the U.S.'s legal framework?

AGS: The U.S. is taking a far more relaxed approach. I don't know whether it's because they're underestimating the risk involved or whether it's because of their general outlook towards regulation. In the specific context of generative AI, I think we are underestimating the diverse risks. For example, in the education sector, you will notice that there is no control on how generative AI tools are used by students. Are there any age restrictions? Content restrictions? And if all platforms have some age restrictions, are they enforced? The answer is no. Also, there is hardly any awareness initiative on the potential risks of using generative AI tools in education. To me, these tools have extreme long-term negative effects on critical thinking and the creative capacities of students. And we are actually working without any kind of guard rails. So, we should at least initiate a discussion on a risk-based approach. Maybe, we should develop our own indigenous approach.

TR: To add to the risks, generative AI is compounding or can compound some existing online threats like the use of deepfakes for disinformation campaigns. This can include simple things like using ChatGPT to make phishing emails sound convincing. There are multiple ways in which cheaper and more accessible generative AI models can compound issues that we're still struggling to regulate, especially in cybersecurity and online harms.

AGS: And these can threaten the basic foundations of our democracy. India is going to have a national election in 2024. Are we even discussing what will be the impact of these generative AI tools on fair and transparent elections? There are hardly any discussions.

How do we approach AI through an Indian legal lens?

AGS: Constitutional law provides certain safeguards against discrimination. But to address this specific issue, we require two things. One, a comprehensive regulatory framework, by which I mean both horizontal regulations that would be applicable across sectors and vertical regulations which are sector-specific. Two, we need more clarity on data protection. If you look at the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, you will notice that it does not apply to any personal data that was publicly made available by the user to whom the data relates. This, in effect, legitimises all the scrapping that was done by these AI companies. These are the areas where we need to have a more nuanced approach.

TR: The DPDP Act has gone through many lives before it was finally passed. It started as something that was supposed to protect individuals from data collection both by the private sector and the government. It has since taken on a new life as something that's more focused on generating economic value. Though it does hold private entities a little more accountable, individual rights have weakened considerably. Now, the expectation is that the proposed Digital India Act is going to fill some of the gaps left by the DPDP Act. At least that's what we've been hearing from the IT Ministry. We'll have to see what shape it takes. It would be more advisable to have a leaner regulation, rather than over regulation.

What happens when companies say that explaining their language models will lead to trade secret exposure?

AGS: They rely on the trade secrets regime to guard against disclosure. They are scrapping data from across the globe, but they don't want to actually show the details of the training data or the details of their model. But when there is enormous social harm, I don't see any reason why we shouldn't force them to disclose it. They would try to argue that it is a trade secret, but during the pandemic we saw discussions as to whether there should be a kind of compulsory licensing against trade secrets. I would say that maybe this is one of those instances where a compulsory licensing-like regime is a must in view of the broader social consequences.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Reviving editorial processes

Editorial processes often get it wrong, but it is deeply problematic to have the state as the super editor

Varghese K. George

Good journalism, Carl Bernstein of the Watergate fame said, is "trying to "obtain the best attainable version of the truth," which is "a simple matter but difficult to achieve." This search for the truth becomes complicated in situations of conflict when different sides have different versions of the truth. Multiple vantage points can lead to multiple versions of the truth, but a reporter has to try to be objective and file copy before the deadline. The dominance of electronic and digital media, which demand instant reporting, has made the handling of conflicting versions all the more difficult. Now, when the state tries to be the ultimate arbiter of the truth, and uses law and the police to discipline the media, the journalist is faced with an impossible situation. Journalism easily turns into a conflict with law.

Reporters who seek to unravel facts about ethnic, caste, and religious conflicts have faced various charges in recent years. The state has been clear that it wants to restrict reporting or direct it in a particular course. The government wants to use fact-checking as an instrument of control. When the state claims monopoly over violence and fact, or even truth, its dominance over the society becomes unchallengeable. While the state's attempt to control the media through formal and informal means is dangerous, what is also dangerous is the proliferation of misinformation that creates strife and triggers violence. The state wants to exercise its authority to control the narrative, in the name of controlling misinformation.

Traditionally the role of the editor was to judge what is publishable news and enforce a process for making that conclusion. The era of so-called citizen journalism has made the role of the editor redundant. Anyone can write or broadcast anything without verification or adherence to any rules. This is part of an anti-elitism that has gripped all democracies. The demise of editorial process in news production has had violent consequences. But using law enforcement to resolve this problem will lead us to authoritarianism. The answer lies in reviving the role of the editor, and re-establishing the rigorous processes for news gathering and dissemination.

In this context, it is interesting that the Manipur government is targeting the Editors Guild of India (EGI) for trying to underscore professional standards in reporting on the ongoing conflict in the State. An EGI team that produced a study on reporting on the conflict stands accused of promoting enmity between communities. The Supreme Court is now examining the entire episode and will decide on quashing the FIRs against the EGI team. The fundamental question being probed by the court is whether reportage, if opinionated or even erroneous, can attract criminal liability. The Chief Justice of India has asked the Manipur government whether a report, which, according to the journalist's best knowledge, truthfully presents the situation on the ground, can be construed by the state as a deliberate attempt to provoke communal violence and become the basis for prosecution under Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code. The apex court has said that an opinion may be right or wrong. Right to free speech includes the right to make a wrong opinion. An erroneous point of view cannot be criminally prosecuted under Section 153A.

It is not that editors or professional bodies are infallible. Editorial processes often get it wrong. But to have the state as the super editor is a deeply problematic solution. News platforms and professional bodies need to up their game, and the state and the judiciary should support that process. Social media, intense competition among various platforms, and polarisation in society all make the editorial processes difficult. But those are also the reasons why professional standards are required more than ever before, to protect a healthy environment of free speech that is sustainable.

varghese.g@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A treat for the eyes

Safdarjung Tomb, the last garden tomb of the Mughals, in New Delhi, on the evening of World Tourism Day. This is the tomb of Mirza Muqim Abul Mansur Khan, who was titled Safdarjang, the viceroy of Oudh under Muhammad Shah. The sandstone and marble mausoleum was built in 1754. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 29, 1973

Russia to give India two million tonnes of grain

New Delhi, Sept. 28: The Soviet Union has offered to supply two million tonnes of foodgrains, including a certain amount of rice, on a loan basis and the Government of India has accepted the offer. The Union Food Secretary, Mr. G.C.L. Joneja, who announced this at a hurriedly convened press conference, expressed confidence that with this and the arrival of supplies contracted for in the U.S. the present crisis could be tided over. The Soviet offer was conveyed early this week by Mr. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in a letter to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The letter said: "Taking into account India's food difficulties caused by the unfavourable weather conditions and being guided by the aspiration to develop friendly Soviet-Indian relations, the Soviet Government is willing to supply to India two million tonnes of foodgrains, including a certain amount of rice, on a loan basis. The despatch of the foodgrains can be started immediately if the offer is acceptable to the Government of India." The Government of India, while accepting the offer, has conveyed its warm appreciation of the friendly gesture to Mr. Brezhnev and the Soviet Government. Mr. Joneja said the terms of repayment and other details were yet to be worked out. He was therefore, not in a position now to say whether India would repay in the form of foodgrains. In reply to another question, he said the Soviet Union had made the offer "on its own" and India had not made any approach to it for grains.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 29, 1923

Lucknow in water

Lucknow, Sept. 28: There is heavy flood in Goomti causing havoc. Water is constantly on the increase since Monday last. Roads were breached in several places and communication was stopped. Colvin Talukdas School, Moti Mahal and Chatramanzil and numerous other bungalows are submerged half under water. The inmates are safe. No loss of life is reported. Three detached sections of the city are under water and mud houses have collapsed.

From Page One

Architect of Green Revolution departs

Born in Kumbakonam on August 7, 1925 to M.K. Sambasivan, a surgeon, and Parvati Thangammal, Swaminathan had his schooling there. His keen interest in agricultural science coupled with his father's participation in the freedom movement and Mahatma Gandhi's influence inspired him to pursue higher studies in the subject. Otherwise, he would have become a police officer, for which he got qualified in the late 1940s. By then, he got two undergraduate degrees, including one from the Agricultural College, Coimbatore

On obtaining a postgraduate degree in cytogenetics in 1949 from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, he earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Cambridge, where he met his wife, who was also pursuing higher studies there. He did his post-doctoral research at the University of Wisconsin. In 1954, Dr. Swaminathan joined the Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack and later, IARI. In July 1966, he became IARI Director, the post he held till 1972. It was during this stint in his long career that he shot to fame.

Awards and recognitions

Dr. Swaminathan, who was a recipient of the Padma Shri in 1967, was chosen for the Ramon Magsaysay award for community leadership in 1971. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in January 1972. He became Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and in 1979, was made the Principal Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. When Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister again in 1980, he was appointed Member (Agriculture, Rural Development, Science and Education), Union Planning Commission, and, for a few months, he served as the Deputy Chairman of the body.

Between 1982 and 1988, he headed the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines. In 1987, he became the first to get the World Food Prize and the first foreigner to receive the Golden Heart Presidential Award of Philippines. Two years later, he was conferred with Padma Vibushan.

Immediately after returning to India in 1988, the veteran agriculture scientist established a not-for-profit trust – MSSRF – with the proceeds he got from the Food Prize. The Foundation, which began functioning in Chennai since 1989, aims to accelerate use of modern science and technology for agricultural and rural development to improve lives and livelihoods of communities.

In November 2004, the Union government made Dr. Swaminathan chairman of the National Commission on Farmers. Popularly known as the Swaminathan Commission, the panel's main recommendation to the Centre was that minimum support price should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production.

Dr. Swaminathan was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from 2007 to 2013. The first World Agriculture Prize, instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture, was bestowed to him in October 2018.

Controversies

He had his share of controversies. As head of the ICAR, he had to bear the brunt of the attack when a senior agronomist of the IARI reportedly died by suicide following his non-selection as professor.

In March 1978, Jyotirmoy Bosu, a tall Leftist leader and a member of the governing body of the ICAR, publicly accused the Institute of having a "one-man show," a charge promptly refuted by the Janata government. More than these instances, Dr. Swaminathan's critics hold him responsible for certain ill effects of the "Green Revolution", including ecological damage and benefits of high-yield technology eluding small and marginal farmers. To this, he responded with the idea of "evergreen revolution," with emphasis on crop and livestock productivity in perpetuity without ecological or social harm.

Auto driver held for raping girl in M.P.

The police said she arrived at the holy town in the early hours of September 25 and the assault must have occurred between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.

"Footage from several CCTV cameras was checked, information from residents of areas located along the bypass road was collected and technical evidence was gathered. Various teams questioned those with criminal records and others including autorickshaw drivers, rickshaw pullers, e-rickshaw drivers, bus operators, people at railway stations and bus stands," said Sachin Sharma, Superintendent of Police, Ujjain.

According to the statement, when the police took the suspect to the spot of the crime after his arrest, he tried to flee after pushing the police personnel accompanying him.

"Efforts were made to arrest the accused by immediately calling additional personnel to the spot. The accused pelted stones at the police, due to which some police officers got injured, and the accused got himself injured after falling into a pit while running away," said Mr. Sharma.

Speaking on the victim, the police said that her condition had improved and a surgery she underwent was also successful. She is being treated at the Holkar Women's Hospital in Indore.

Divya Gupta, a member of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), visited the hospital and met doctors treating the girl. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said his government will ensure that the accused arrested for brutalising the girl gets stringent punishment.

Protesters rue slow pace of probe into students' murder

They question why there was not enough condemnation of the incident as in the case of the Thoubal incident in May; BJP State president's house attacked; Centre extends deadline for State govt. to capture biometrics of undocumented migrants

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The attack on the Manipur Chief Minister's personal residence comes amid simmering tensions over the murder of two Meitei students who went missing in July.

At the heart of the protest is discontent about the slow pace of investigation in the case, compared with the swift action taken by the police into the May 4 incident in Thoubal when two tribal women were paraded naked and raped. In the students' case, however, the Central Bureau of Investigation and the State police are yet to make any headway; in fact, the bodies are yet to be recovered.

POLICE BRUTALITY ON STUDENTS D BE STOPPED
LET PEACE BE PREVAILED IN MANIPUR
JUSTICE FOR LINTHOINGAMBI AND HEMANJIT
JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS
CRIMINALS

Fight for justice: Medical students hold protests over the death of two Meitei youth, in Imphal on Thursday. ANI

More vandalism

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State president A. Sharda Devi told *The Hindu* that protesters had vandalised her house on Wednesday night as well, in an attack that left her niece injured.

"This is the sixth time my house has been attacked. The students were angry, they wanted to know why they were subjected to violence and why there was not enough condemnation to this incident as in the case of two women who were paraded naked," Ms. Devi said.

In another incident on Wednesday night, the office of the District Magistrate of Imphal West was also vandalised, and two cars parked in its vicinity were set on fire.

An order by Director-General of Police Rajiv Singh said that a committee is being formed to verify the complaints and allegations of police excess, which will submit its report at the earliest.

Over the past few days, several students and other people were injured in the valley districts as the police cracked down on street protests against the students' murder.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the Manipur Police said that in a meeting on Thursday, senior officers of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) were "apprised of the unfortunate injuries of students as well as security personnel".

The forces discussed the need to use minimum force in dealing with the public, especially students, the police said.

The police also appealed to the students to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace.

The Rapid Action Force (RAF), the Centre's anti-riot police, has been accused of using pellet guns against students, though officials have denied its use during crowd-control measures.

The families of the two students urged the authorities to locate the bodies so that their last rites could be performed.

Migrants' biometrics

The Union Home Ministry (MHA) on Thursday granted the Manipur government time till the end of the financial year to capture the "biographic and biometric details of illegal migrants".

In a June 22 letter, the Ministry had reminded Manipur and Mizoram to complete the campaign by September 30 this year.

The presence of undocumented migrants and the crackdown against them is among several factors mentioned by the State government as being responsible for the ethnic violence.

Mizoram not to collect data of Myanmar 'refugees'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Mizoram government has decided against collecting the biometric and biographical data of 'refugees' from Myanmar.

Some 40,000 Chin people, fleeing a civil war in Myanmar since the February 2021 military coup, have taken shelter in Mizoram and Manipur.

Over 35,000 Chin people of them are in Mizoram, apart from 700 Kuki-Chin people from Bangladesh.

The Chin, Kuki-Chin, Kuki-Zo and the dominant Mizo people of Mizoram belong to the same ethnic stock.

"The Centre advised us to carry out the exercise but we said it would not be possible since our officials would be busy with the preparations for the upcoming Assembly elections," a Mizoram Home Department official said, declining to be quoted.

The elections to the 40-member Mizoram House are expected by December.

As Centre crushed hopes of youth, suicide rate on the rise: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after the Narendra Modi government held a *rozgar mela* to give away appointment letters for government jobs, the Congress on Thursday attacked it over the issue of unemployment. The party alleged that the Modi government had crushed the hopes and dreams of India's youth, and that was leading to increasing cases of suicides.

In a statement, party general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh alleged that the Modi government might want to "manipulate" the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data to hide information on suicides.

"Instead of dealing with the crisis of demographic dividend turning into a demographic disaster, we should not be surprised if the Modi government's next move is to manipulate the NCRB data due for 2022 to hide the alarming suicide rate among the youth," Mr. Ramesh said.

> We should not be surprised if the Modi government's next move is to manipulate the NCRB data due for 2022 to hide the alarming suicide rate among the youth
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress general secretary

The Congress leader cited the recent interactions of Rahul Gandhi with railway porters at the Anand Vihar terminal here, where Mr. Gandhi noted that a large number of educated youth, including those with engineering degrees, were unable to find formal employment and were forced into precarious informal jobs.

EPFO data

Mr. Ramesh said unemployment as well as the hidden under-employment remained a severe problem in India. He claimed that data from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for 2021-22 showed formal sector employment was 5.3% lower than it was in 2019-20. The number of formal employers also declined by a 10.5% between 2019-20 and 2021-22.

According to a report from Azim Premji University, Mr. Ramesh said, 42% of graduates under 25 were unemployed in 2021-22. Jobs in manufacturing dropped 31% between 2016-17 and March 2023, according to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data.

Quoting the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for January-March 2023, Mr. Ramesh said even in urban areas, less than 50% of workers were salaried. "These numbers show that the unplanned lockdown, in combination with disastrous economic policies and the cronyism of the Modi government, have actually shrunk formal employment opportunities for educated youth," he said.

Indian, French Army chiefs share lessons from Ukraine war, discuss deepening ties

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Pointing to the strategic partnership between India and France and the close cooperation between the two Navies and Air Forces, French Army chief General Pierre Schill said the two Armies were also looking to deepen cooperation with more exercises and sharing best practices among others.

On his bilateral meeting with his Indian counterpart, General Manoj Pande, he said they exchanged the lessons learnt from the war in Ukraine and how they could manage to increase their capabilities in the future looking at conclusions from the war.

He was in India to participate in the 13th Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs Conference (IPACC) hosted by India jointly with the U.S. from September 25 to 27, as well as the 47th Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS) and 9th Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF).

General Pierre Schill

To a question on what the discussion was with Gen. Pande over China, Gen. Schill told *The Hindu*, "Once again, I think there is the strategic question of the position of our two countries to balance state power competition, including military but also technological, economic power and how this changes the situation in the area."

On the discussions at the IPACC over Chinese expansion, Gen. Schell said that at their level, as Army Chiefs, the question is not whether "to be against or with" China. "But [it is] rather about the ability of our armies to increase deterrence to preserve peace and regional stability, and also our ability to cooperate with partners in order to be able to have a multilateral approach to support and solve challenges and issues of this area, including the question of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief [HADR]."

To questions on the kind of role that land forces of India and France can forge in the Pacific part of the Indo-Pacific, the French Army Chief referred to the importance of territory and with it the aspect of "sovereignty", which means "protecting, defending, but also promoting resilience."

Sena split: examination to start on November 23

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar has announced that the cross-examination process, related to disqualification petitions filed by Shiv Sena MLAs, will commence on November 23.

According to the schedule issued by Mr. Narwekar, cross-examination will be held twice a week.

The recent move, however, has been criticised by the Shiv Sena (UBT), which views it as a delaying tactic. Former Minister and Uddhav Thackeray loyalist Anil Parab said that the Speaker could complete the hearings of the disqualification pleas "within a month". He said there is no reason to prolong the proceedings.

"Post November 23, there will be a Winter Session of the Assembly. So, the hearing won't take place during that time as well," Mr. Parab said.

INBRIEF

Cong. slams AAP after Punjab MLA held in 2015 drugs case

Punjab Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira was arrested on Thursday in connection with a 2015 case surrounding the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The Congress reacted sharply to the arrest, terming the move "politically motivated" by the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), indicative of widening rift between the Indian National Development, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) partners. The AAP justified the arrest of the Congress MLA and dismissed the allegation of any 'political vendetta'.

Himalaya gets injunction against doctor over his posts

The X account of Cyriac Abby Philips – a hepatologist and prominent voice on social media debunking medical misinformation – was blocked in India on Thursday, after the Himalaya Wellness Company obtained an injunction against his account from the City Civil Court in Bengaluru. Mr. Philips said that he planned to challenge the injunction in a higher court. Himalaya accused Mr. Philips of "posting derogatory statements and materials against [its] products", and claimed that its business has as a result "significantly reduced".

Afghanistan Embassy in India announces shut down

Two years after the Taliban took over Kabul, the Afghanistan Embassy in India has informed the government that it is being forced to close down, given lack of resources from the Taliban regime, and blaming the Indian government for not supporting it despite several requests. The decision, conveyed in an unsigned Note Verbale to the Ministry of External Affairs this week, indicated the Embassy would close at the end of September. The MEA declined to comment to reports about the Note Verbale.

APPEAL

Ms. ISHMEET, daughter of Raman Kumar, 11 years admitted in Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre is suffering from Thalassemia Major. She underwent allogenic bone marrow transplant. The cost of treatment incurred by the patient was **Rs. 20,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the girl. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Ishmeet, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Architects of a revolution: C. Subramaniam (left), Norman Borlaug (second from left), and M.S. Swaminathan (right) at a seminar in Chennai on March 9, 1990. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

With the PM: M.S. Swaminathan and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi with N.D. Tiwari, head of an environment committee, after presenting the panel report in September 1980. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Man of the field: M.S. Swaminathan at the Wheat Breeding Research Station of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Wellington on December 31, 2013. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

Top honour: M.S. Swaminathan receives the first World Agriculture Prize of the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture from Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu in 2018. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

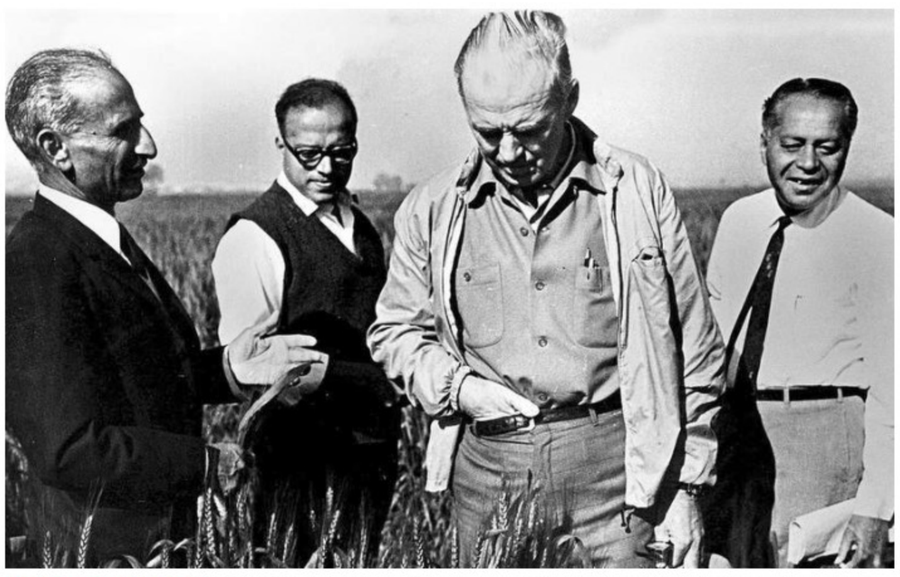
Swaminathan walked ahead of his time: scientific community

His major contributions are developing high-yielding Basmati varieties, using technology of mutation for various crops, application of genetics for increasing production, food security and launching programmes such as 'lab to land', they say

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Indian agriculture scientists and policy-makers remember M.S. Swaminathan as someone who walked ahead of time not just as a scientist, researcher, and academic but also as a visionary administrator. The community believes that developing high-yielding Basmati rice varieties, innovatively using the technology of mutation for various crops, application of genetics for increasing production and food security and launching programmes such as "lab to land" were his major contributions to the agriculture sector.

Former Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Trilochan Mohapatra remembers Dr. Swaminathan as an encouraging teacher and strong administrator. "He was our professor at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. He minced no words to encourage us. When we successfully organised a congregation of scientists, he wrote a letter to then Director of IARI congratulating us as 'students who take pride in perfection'. I had met him last on his birthday in August. In all our meetings, he would passionately talk about research and findings in the field of agriculture, which was so inspiring," Professor Mohapatra said.



Seeding a revolution: Norman Borlaug (third from left) selecting strains of high-yielding wheat along with S.P. Kohli, M.S. Swaminathan and V.S. Mathur in New Delhi in 1965. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Nutritional quality through mutation of crops, bio-fortification, funding States to promote agriculture, precision farming, advocacy through National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and establishment of a Central Institute for Women in Agriculture were all his pet projects, Professsor Mohapatra said.

He remembers insightful papers by Dr. Swaminathan on his doctoral research work in the science of potato in the *Nature* journal which is still considered seminal. "He joined the Central Rice Research Institute in Cuttack when he came back to India after his research. He always had a special consideration for this institute," Professor Mohapatra said. "His stamp is visible in ICAR, IARI and all other national agriculture science institutions," he said.

Chairman of the Punjab Farmers Commission and eminent agro-economist Sukhpal Singh said it was under Dr. Swaminathan's leadership that efforts were launched at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to cultivate rice with C4 carbon fixation capabilities, enabling improved photosynthesis and water utilisation. "Dr. Swaminathan also contributed to developing the world's first high-yielding basmati rice," Professor Sukhpal said, adding that his incomparable contribution in improving agricultural production by developing high-yielding crop varieties and modern technologies would always be remembered by the country, especially by the farmers of Punjab.

IARI Director A.K. Singh said in a statement that in the passing of Dr. Swaminathan ends an era of agricultural research, education and extension that was full of disruptive innovation. "If God appears to poor and hungry in form of bread as said by Mahatma Gandhi, that God is Dr. Swaminathan who should be worshipped by every citizen while taking daily meals," Professor Singh said.

Describing Dr. Swaminathan's dedication to the welfare of farmers as unwavering, Sanjay Deshmukh, Professor of Life Sciences and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mumbai, said the scientist championed the farmers' cause, advocating for fair prices, access to technology, and social justice within the agricultural landscape. His work was a testament to his commitment to improving the lives of those who toiled on the land. His farmer-centric approaches resonated far beyond India's borders, serving as an inspiration to agricultural communities worldwide, he said.

(With inputs from Chennai)

Innovator, instrumental in shaping scientific temper: leaders pay rich tributes

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Leaders across the political spectrum paid tribute to scientist M.S. Swaminathan on Thursday and remembered his contributions to the agriculture sector.

President Droupadi Murmu said Dr. Swaminathan left behind a rich legacy which would serve as a "guiding light to steer the world towards a safer and hunger-free future for humanity".

"The demise of Dr M S Swaminathan, internationally renowned agricultural scientist, saddens me no end. A visionary who worked endlessly to achieve food security, he was rightly called the Father of Green Revolution that ensured our country's self-reliance in food grains," Ms. Murmu said in a post on X.

"He pioneered path-breaking research in the agriculture science for which he got a range of awards- from Padma Vibhushan to the prestigious World Food Prize," the President said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Dr. Swaminathan's groundbreaking work in agriculture at a very critical period of Indian history transformed the lives of millions and ensured food security for our nation.

> His unwavering commitment to research and mentorship has left an indelible mark on countless scientists and innovators
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

He said he was deeply saddened by the demise of Dr. Swaminathan, who passed away at his residence in Chennai on Thursday. In a post on X, he said Dr. Swaminathan "was a powerhouse of innovation and a nurturing mentor to many".

"His unwavering commitment to research and mentorship has left an indelible mark on countless scientists and innovators," he said. Mr. Modi added that the late scientist's passion to see India's progress was exemplary. He said he will always cherish the conversations he had with Dr. Swaminathan and the latter's work will inspire generations to come.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Dr. Swaminathan's "unmatched contribution to the field of agricultural science and his transformative intervention in making India self-sufficient in food grains shall always be cherished".

He hailed him "as a great Institution builder, an able administrator and above all a humanitarian". "India will not only miss a great scientist but a national icon who was also instrumental in shaping a scientific temper amongst our people," he added.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Dr. Swaminathan's steadfast commitment to revolutionising India's agriculture turned the nation into a food surplus country. "His legacy as the Father of the Green Revolution will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences go out to his loved ones during this time of loss," he said.

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan said she was shocked to hear about the demise of the father of India's Green Revolution, which she said saved millions of famine deaths globally.

(With inputs from PTI)

Can't think of any Indian more decorated internationally: N. Ram

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd. and former Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu*, said here on Thursday that he could not think of any Indian who was more decorated internationally in modern times than the agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan, who died earlier in the day.

Addressing presspersons after paying respects to Dr. Swaminathan, Mr. Ram said he did not know of any Indian who had made a greater contribution to the national life, primarily because of the increase in food production he brought about, which was a real revolution.

He said Dr. Swaminathan had worked with eminent agronomist Norman Borlaug and also political leaders like C. Subramaniam. He said Dr. Swaminathan's contribution had continued lifelong, even after his full-time professional scientific career.

N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd., pays tribute to M.S. Swaminathan in Chennai. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

He recalled how the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation was set up in Tamil Nadu despite an offer from Karnataka Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde (in the late 1980s) to set up such an institution in Bengaluru. Hegde had made an attractive offer with land and a huge sum of money, he said.

Mr. Ram said Dr. Swaminathan had a very practical approach and applied his knowledge in a practical way. He said this was reflected in the functioning of the foundation with its focus on collecting native varieties of plants and foregrounding the role of women in agriculture. He paid minute attention to detail and visited the foundation every day until recent times.

He said Dr. Swaminathan had donated all the money he got from awards to the foundation. Though there were contributions from other organisations, the seed money with which the foundation's corpus was built came from Dr. Swaminathan.

Swaminathan wanted women, farmers to benefit from MSSRF's research work

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

On the day that their 'Professor' (M.S. Swaminathan) passed away, the six lakh families of 4,000 villages in 14 districts mourned the loss of a colossus, who changed their lives with his pro-poor, pro-women, pro-nature approach. He passed scientific know-how to the farmer, the fisherman, and even the artisan.

For D. Usharani of Embalam, the 'Professor' was someone who took her "from being a manual labourer to a person who spoke in Switzerland". "I would have remained a silent housewife letting my husband bring the money. But he taught me to operate computers. He taught us women to cultivate crops, use the power-tiller, and teach others to farm too. There are more women farmers than men on the fields these days."

Centre of attraction: The M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Taramani, Chennai.

From a small beginning in 1987, the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) has made an impact in various fields, carrying out research and development initiatives related to coastal systems, biodiversity, biotechnology, ecotechnology, agriculture, nutrition, and health. N. Parasuraman, principal scientist at the MSSRF, recalls the very first project on 'coastal systems research' at Vettaikaraniruppu in Nagapattinam district where sustainable agriculture was introduced and the people grew groundnuts under coconut palms and moringa trees.

"He wanted farmers and fishermen and women to benefit from the research," he said. V. Pakirichi, a woman from a Dalit community, recalls how there was a time when others in the village wouldn't enter the temple she entered. "But he was there for me. He refused to enter if I did not. He taught us self-respect, ensured my children were educated," said the 46-year-old, a climate activist.

Will remember his influence, says Tikait

Press Trust of India
NOIDA

India will always remember the positive influence M.S. Swaminathan's work had on agriculture, among farmers and his contribution to food security, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait said on Thursday, remembering the scientist.

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TIDEL Park Limited invites e-tender for the following :

e-tender Nos.	NAME OF THE WORKS
2023-24/6	e-tender for Housekeeping and Waste Management Services of its IT Park at Taramani, Chennai.
2023-24/7	e-tender for Supply, Installation,Testing and Commissioning of 336 Nos of Air Handling Units (AHU of 25TR, 20TR, 15TR and 10TR with necessary modification in the pipes and replacement of required valves).

For more information and participation in the e-tender, please visit the website https: www.tntenders.gov.in/. The last date for online submission of duly filled tender documents is **3.00 p.m. on 30.10.2023**. TIDEL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
DIPR/ 5355 /TENDER/2023
MANAGING DIRECTOR

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER — TENDER NOTICE
Adv.No.53/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.172/SE-I& NIT No.107/SE-III/ /TTD/2023-24 Dt:27/09/2023
Name of work: (1) Widening of existing 80 feet master plan road (2.90 km) from RTO office Junction in Karakambadi Road to Sri Padmavathi Flour Mill in Renigunta, Tirupti. **Amount Rs.1950.00 Lakhs.** Time for completion 12 months. (2) Proposed formation of four lane road from Pudipatla Junction to National High way at Sri Vakulamatha Temple, Tirupati. **Amount Rs.3000.00 Lakhs.** Time for completion 12 months.
NOTE: For full details log on to the website https://www.tirumala.org.
Roc.No.PR4/13958/Adv.No.207/PRO/2023, Dated:28-09-2023
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
232423 002614	Procurement of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film Roll,70 Microns of various sizes for TNPL Unit-II	17.10.2023

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & Conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in Tender documents which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/5331/Tender/2023
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TIDEL Park Ltd., invites applications from qualified & experienced personnel for appointment of the following post on contract basis;

Post Codes	Name of Posts	No. of Post	Type of Appointment	Min Exp (Yrs)	Education Qualification	Pay / CTC (Per Month)
01	**Manager (Finance & Accounts)**	One (1)	Contract	5 - 7	Graduate in Commerce (Full Time) with CA (Associate / Fellowship Member of ICAI).	1,00,000/-

Post Codes	Name of Posts	No. of Post	Location	Min Exp (Yrs)	Education Qualification	Pay / CTC (Per Month)
01	**Assistant Engineer (Civil) – TIDEL NEO Projects**	One (4)	Thoothukudi, Vellore,Thanjavur, Salem	8 years	BE in Civil Engineering	50,000/-
CTC	CTC is negotiable depending on last drawn pay, experience and qualification (TDS and other statutory deductions, as applicable)					

Note: i. Please refer detailed employment notification published in TIDEL Park website vide URL: www.tidelpark.com for further information. ii. Interested professionals may submit their applications through email (hr@tidelpark.com) mode only from 29.09.2023 to 13.10.2023.
DIPR/ 1125 /DIS/2023
Managing Director

INBRIEF

Farmers start three-day *rail roko* in Punjab against Centre

Stepping up their agitation against the Centre, farmers associated with 19 different outfits on Thursday started a three-day *rail roko* agitation across Punjab to press for fulfilment of their demands, including a law on assured Minimum Support Price (MSP). "The BJP-led government at the Centre has been ignoring farmers' plight for long and hence we had to resort to the agitation. We blocked railway tracks today and our *rail roko* agitation will continue till September 30 in its first phase. And if our demands are not met we will further intensify the agitation," said Mr. Pandher. They have also demanded a complete loan waiver for farmers, among others.

Congress ex-MLC booked for remarks on Smriti Irani

Former Congress MLC Deepak Singh on Thursday was booked by the Amethi police for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Union Minister Smriti Irani. The Minister represents Amethi constituency in the Lok Sabha. On the complaint of local BJP leader Keshav Singh, Amethi police registered a non-cognizable offence report (NCR) in the Gauriganj police station of the district. In his complaint, the BJP leader alleged that the former MLC used words such as 'Irani Pakistani' against the Minister, adding that the remarks have hurt the sentiments of party workers in Amethi and demanded strict action as per law.

Teacher held for forcing one student to slap another

The Uttar Pradesh police on Thursday arrested a schoolteacher after she allegedly ordered a Muslim student to slap a Hindu classmate at a private school under Asmoli police station in Sambhal district for not answering a question. In his application on Tuesday, the victim's father alleged that his son, a class 5 student, was slapped by a Muslim student at the behest of the teacher. The father added that the feelings of his son were hurt due to the incident. "We registered the complaint under Sections 323 and 153 A, investigation is going on according to law," said Shrish Chandra, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sambhal.

ED summons Abhishek Banerjee on protest day

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday issued summons to Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee to appear on October 3 in connection with the school jobs scam in Kolkata. The fresh summons by the central agency on the day when Mr. Banerjee was scheduled to lead his party's protests in Delhi has spurred a political row. "Now, today yet again they have served me another summons to appear before them on a day when the protest agitation for West Bengal's rightful dues is scheduled in Delhi on 3rd Oct. This stark revelation unequivocally exposes those who are truly perturbED, rattlED and scarED!," he said on X.

MGNREGS social audit unit in a state of paralysis in many States

Recovery in cases flagged by these units over the past three years ranges from 13.8% to 20.8%; the Union government, which funds the units, has been lax in delivering funds, while State governments fail to act on the cases that have been revealed

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Credibility at stake: A dismal recovery rate of graft money threatens the credibility of the MGNREGS audit process since it makes the entire exercise futile. FILE PHOTO

An enduring criticism against the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is its alleged high rate of corruption. But the scheme's inbuilt mechanism to combat it, the social audit units meant to detect any cases of malpractice, seems to have failed.

As per the statistics available with the Union Rural Development Ministry in the ongoing financial year, less than 14% of the amount flagged by the auditors has been recovered so far.

The figures for the previous financial years are equally dismal.

Poor recovery

In the ongoing financial year, the social audit units have flagged misappropriation of ₹27.5 crore. After action was taken in some of these cases, the amount came down to ₹9.5 crore out of which only ₹1.31 crore has been recovered so far, a mere 13.8% of the total.

The financial year 2022-23 has a similar story; after taking rectifying measures, the recoverable amount was pegged at ₹86.2 crore but the recovery amounted to only ₹18 crore, just 20.8% of the total. In 2021-22, one of the social audit units flagged one of the highest amounts of misappropriation at ₹171 crore but only ₹26 crore, 15% of the total, was recovered.

Fund-starved units

Section 17 of the Act governing the scheme says that the gram sabha "shall monitor the execution of works". Each State has social audit units that are supposed to work independently of the implementing authorities.

To take stock of the situation, the Ministry on Tuesday held a seminar for the social audit units from the States, MGNREGA commissioners, civil society, and other stakeholders.

A bleak picture emerged at the seminar, of fund-starved social audit units, working without training or adequate personnel. The social audit unit's sole responsibility is to flag cases of malpractice. Recovering the money, and reprimanding the officials responsible, is up to the State governments.

A dismal recovery rate threatens the credibility of the audit process since it makes the entire exercise futile, said Rakshita Swamy, Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research (SAFAR), who attended the seminar.

"The Union government has weaponised the lack of social audits to withhold funds for MGNREGS for the States. But the Ministry, which directly funds the social audit units so that they are able to maintain their independence from the States, is not getting funds to them in time. For example, units in Karnataka and Bihar have not got funds for nearly two years now," she added.

Over the past three years, there has been a consistent trend of the same States reporting "zero number of cases" and making "zero recoveries".

The BJP-ruled States of Gujarat and Goa, the northeastern State of Meghalaya, and the Union Territories of Puducherry and Ladakh have been on this list for all three of those years.

There are other States such as Telangana, where an active social audit unit has flagged several cases, but the recovery rate remains low.

For example, in the ongoing financial year, ₹6.6 crore was flagged by the auditors to be recovered; so far, only a measly ₹2,087 has actually been recovered.

No cases or no money

"We welcome the vigilance by the Centre and their pressure on the States to recover the misappropriated money. But the States that identify several cases of misappropriation are taken to task for not making the recovery. Worse than these States are those that show no cases at all. Which clearly means, there is no monitoring here," said Nikhil Dey, founder member of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, who also attended the seminar.

I&B Ministry notifies key changes to TV network rules

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry has issued a notification amending the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, thereby introducing a procedure for the renewal of Multi-System Operator (MSO) registrations.

In addition, an enabling provision has been inserted in the Rules for the sharing of infrastructure by the cable operators with the broadband service providers to promote Internet penetration to the last mile, the Ministry said on Thursday.

The salient features of the amended Rules, which were notified on Wednesday, provide that the cable operators will have to apply for the registration or renewal of registration online at the Ministry's Broadcast Seva Portal. The registrations will be granted or renewed for 10 years.

The processing fee of ₹1 lakh applies for renewal of registration also. The application for it will be within a window of seven to two months before the expiry of registration. "The renewal procedure is in line with the government's commitment to ease of doing business as it will provide certainty to cable operators to continue their services without interruption," the Ministry said.

Jaishankar meets Blinken, Sullivan; points to big progress in relations

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

S. Jaishankar

Kicking off the Washington segment of his U.S. trip, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had a meeting with U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan. At the time of going to press, Mr. Jaishankar was also in talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The meetings are routine but also particularly significant given the recent and serious diplomatic challenges in the India-Canada relationship following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that the Indian government was linked to the assassination of a Khalistani separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in British Columbia.

Officials have not, thus far, commented in any detail on the agenda of either the White House or State Department meetings, which come three months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington and entail follow up work from that visit. Mr. Modi's June visit saw the announcement of a large set of programmes, covering a broad range of domains from space to health. "Recognised the tremendous progress in our bilateral relationship this year and discussed taking it forward," Mr. Jaishankar tweeted describing his Thursday morning meeting with Mr. Sullivan.

Mr. Jaishankar also met with U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

"Spoke about our expanding trade and economic relationship and its broader significance," he said about the meeting on social media site X.

The U.S. and India recently announced the termination of their disputes at the World Trade Organisation. This was an outcome of the June state visit.

The External Affairs Minister also announced that he had an interaction with think tanks in Washington posting a photograph on X of the interaction, which included India's Ambassador to the U.S., Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

Mr. Jaishankar thanked Mr. Blinken for the U.S. support to India's G-20 presidency and indicated that he looked forward to hosting Mr. Blinken for the 2+2 foreign and defence ministers' dialogue.

Mr. Blinken mentioned his meetings with Mr. Jaishankar at the G-20 and around UNGA. The Secretary did not answer a question on how the diplomatic conflict with Canada would impact the India-U.S. relationship. The U.S. has encouraged India to cooperate with the Canadian investigation. India has denied any involvement in the death of Nijjar.

Can vaccines reduce respiratory illnesses among the elderly?

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

ICMR calls for research institutions to conduct studies on effectiveness of immunisation

Are the flu and pneumococcal vaccines effective in reducing the burden of respiratory infections and antimicrobial use in elderly populations? To answer this, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – the country's apex body for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research – has now invited an Expression of Interest from research institutions to conduct studies to evaluate the effectiveness of vaccines for flu and pneumonia in reducing infections and subsequent antimicrobial use in susceptible population.

The impact of vaccinating adults against vaccine-preventable diseases in terms of health, social and economic benefits is being increasingly recognised.

The population over 50 years is expected to represent 27% of the projected population in India in 2036.

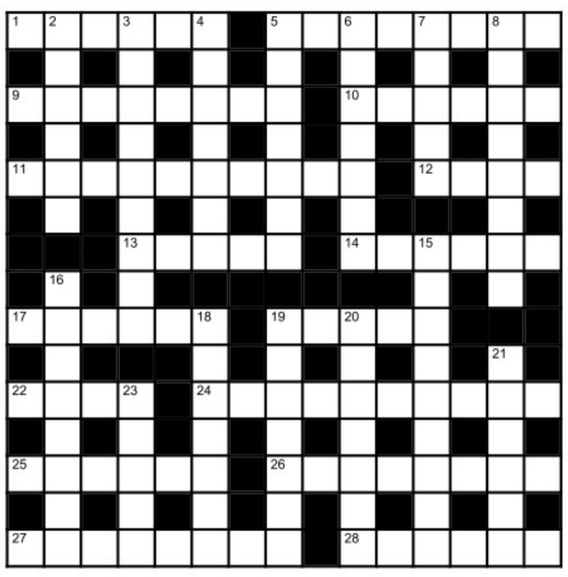
The council notes that upper respiratory tract infections are among the major causes of morbidity and mortality among the elderly and are responsible for a large number of deaths and hospitalisations.

CROSSWORD + 13982

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Drink over drink - It's a drinking spree (4-2)
5 Spooner's defender followed old maid, maybe (4,4)
9 Tightening to catch thieves chiefly for shoplifting (8)
10 Pass through evil blood (4,2)
11 They cared for perimeters essentially in struggle (5,5)
12 Wine biscuits available partly on counter (4)
13 Low-rent? 50 less for hooter! (5)
14 Get hold of scoundrel in bishop's diocese (6)
17 Wine bar back in airport, Siberia (6)
19 Animal's long laugh outside (5)
22 Encouraging expression from compound periodically (4)
24 Training at noon, that maybe marathon mostly or another athletic event (10)
25 I hear marketing drink makes sense (4,2)
26 Instruments found in radio car in a shed (8)
27 Second slip position (8)
28 One of two plus one in number (6)

Down

2 Detain one after the other, I say (6)
3 Extremely sadistic animals get bunny (9)
4 Traumatic chill essentially disturbing sleep on retirement? Take flu shot (7)
5 Primarily cancer institute gives admission readily excluding tobacconists for a whiff (7)
6 Resorts concocted registers (7)
7 Intoxicating preparation smuggled out of Michigan, Jackson (5)
8 Jogging suit in extra sweat (8)
15 Edit the technique of weight-loss (5,4)
16 A way between extremes through press, maybe (3,5)
18 Ideally, where do you see this grid? (2,5)
19 No-hoper mostly failing to catch cock mainly in cage (3-4)
20 Man-eater roaming freely passing over river in spring (7)
21 Take measure party-wise (6)
23 Indian agricultural worker from the South in town (5)

SUDOKU

7			6		1		4	
		4		2				3
1								
	7	8	4					
6		5	1		2	3		7
					8	6	2	
								9
3				5		8		
	6		7		9			2

No.SS5933 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	A	L	L	S		A	P	P	R	O	V	A	L	S
A		O		C		U		A		F		L		I
P	A	Y	M	E	N	T		P	U	F	F	I	N	G
A		A		N		O		E		B		A		N
B	O	L	T	E	D		A	R	M	R	E	S	T	S
L		I		S		R		M		E				I
E	A	S	Y		D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N
		T		H		A		N		K		S		
B	E	S	M	I	R	C	H	E	D		B	L	O	C
E				R		T		Y		P		A		H
A	C	A	D	E	M	I	A		C	O	R	N	E	A
N		W		D		V		E		W		D		S
B	H	A	N	G	R	A		G	O	D	D	E	S	S
A		R		U		T		G		E		R		I
G	R	E	E	N	N	E	S	S		R	I	S	K	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	2	6	9	3	4	7	8
3	7	4	1	8	5	2	9	6
8	6	9	7	4	2	5	1	3
4	2	3	8	7	6	1	5	9
9	5	7	2	3	1	8	6	4
6	8	1	9	5	4	3	2	7
7	3	6	5	1	8	9	4	2
2	4	5	3	6	9	7	8	1
1	9	8	4	2	7	6	3	5

FAITH

The practical code of life

The Bhagavad Gita inspires us to tap the humanistic impulses. It dispels man's doubts, affirms the reality and paves the way for the man to return to God. Valayapettai Sri Ramachariar said in a discourse that the Lord Himself delivered Sri Gita and is in strict conformity with the Vedic teachings. It is a succinct, simple, scientific and definite conclusion of Vedic principles called Gitopanishad. Sri Gita asks people to keep their minds pure; it is a practical code to man's life.

The Lord's words flowed when His disciple suddenly became discouraged and dejected. Seeing Arjuna crestfallen, Sri Krishna tendered advice to him. The Lord prompted, "Give up this pusillanimity of heart and rise to the occasion".

The teachings embodied in the Bhagavad Gita possess eternal value and are universal in their applicability. Its message continues to be as fresh and inspiring today as when the Lord delivered it to Arjuna. Men can derive God's blessings if they conform to the commands in the law of righteous conduct enshrined in the Gita. On the top of the hill of Vedas, the Gita lamp is lit, removing our ignorance's darkness. Like Dronacharya to Ekalavya, Sri Alavandar was to saint Ramanuja. Sri Alavandar prayed at the divine feet of Lord Varadaraja for the sake of Ramanuja.

INBRIEF

BMW Group unveils fully electric iXI SAV at ₹66.90 lakh

BMW Group India has introduced the fully-electric BMW iXI luxury Sports Activity Vehicle (SAV) at ex-showroom price of ₹66.90 lakh. Bookings have opened and deliveries will start from October, the company said. "The electrification of the highly-successful BMW iXI offers all customers the preference of petrol, diesel and now electric," said Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India. "We will continue to boost... electric mobility by carefully expanding our range," he added.

TMB MD Krishnan resigns citing personal reasons

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. (TMB) announced its Managing Director and CEO S. Krishnan had resigned citing personal reasons. On Thursday, the board accepted the resignation letter of Mr. Krishnan from the position of MD & CEO and forwarded the same to the RBI for guidance/advice, the lender said in a filing. Mr. Krishnan shall continue to be the MD & CEO till the bank gets guidance/advice from the RBI.

Ashok Soota sells 1.11% stake in Happiest Minds at ₹879/share

Ashok Soota, the Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds Technologies, sold 16.93 lakh equity shares, or 1.11% stake, in the software company through the BSE and NSE. The shares were sold for ₹879 apiece. Post sales, Mr. Soota's holding has reduced to 50.13% from 51.24% the firm said. "This transaction was primarily done to fund the capital requirements of SKAN, the not-for-profit medical research firm and also to enhance the share capital of Happiest Health," Mr. Soota said.

Current account deficit widens QoQ to $9.2 bn on trade gap

Sequential drop in net services receipts, fall in private transfer receipts contribute to wider Q1 CAD; 'uptick in oil prices may further widen CAD'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to $9.2 billion (1.1% of GDP) in the April-June quarter, from $1.3 billion (0.2% of GDP) in the preceding three months, as exports of goods shrank even as imports rose and net receipts from services also declined sequentially, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) show.

The CAD was $17.9 billion in the year-earlier quarter of fiscal 2022-23.

"The widening of CAD on a quarter-on-quarter basis was primarily on account of a higher trade deficit coupled with a lower surplus in net services and decline in private transfer receipts," the RBI said.

Net services receipts fell sequentially, primarily due to a decline in exports of computer, travel and business services, though they remained higher on a year-on- year (y-o-y) basis, the central bank noted.

Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, moderated to $27.1 billion in the last quarter, from $28.6 billion in Q4 of FY23.

'Worrisome fall'

"The fall in remittances... is worrisome and will bear watching, more so because of slowing global growth," said Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief Economist, CRISIL Ltd. "This can have a bearing on CAD, which was anyway expected to rise sequentially in the first quarter of this fiscal because of higher merchandise trade deficit and softening in services trade surplus," Mr. Joshi added.

"To boot, the recent uptick in oil prices will weigh on merchandise trade deficit. Together, these have put upside pressure on our estimate of CAD for this fiscal, which stands at 1.8% of GDP," he said.

Net outgo on the income account, primarily reflecting payments of investment income, slid to $10.6 billion, from $12.6 billion in the preceding quarter.

Net foreign direct investment declined to $5.1 billion, from $13.4 billion a year earlier. Net foreign portfolio investment recorded inflows of $15.7 billion, compared with net outflows of $14.6 billion in the year-earlier quarter.

Net external commercial borrowings recorded an inflow of $5.6 billion in Q1, as against an outflow of $2.9 billion a year earlier.

There was an accretion of $24.4 billion to the foreign exchange reserves (on a BoP basis) in the first quarter of the current fiscal, the RBI said.

'CAD to further widen'

"With the average merchandise trade deficit trending higher in July-August... and the recent rise in crude oil prices, ICRA estimates the CAD to widen sequentially to $19-21 billion (2.3% of GDP) in Q2," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA Ltd.

"Overall, ICRA projects the CAD to widen to $73-75 billion (2.1% of GDP) in FY24... building in an average crude oil price of $90/bbl in H2," she added.

Shortfall widens

India's current account deficit widened to $9.2 bn in Q1, from $1.3 bn in the January-March period, RBI data show

- CAD was $17.9 bn in the year-earlier quarter of fiscal 2022-23
- Net services receipts fell q-o-q, due to a drop in exports of computer, travel and business services
- Remittances moderated to $27.1 bn in the last quarter, from $28.6 bn in Q4 FY23

Non-residents' net claims on India rose $12.1 bn as at June: RBI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Net claims of non-residents on India rose by $12.1 billion during Q1 of FY24 and stood at $379.7 billion as at end June, show the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data on India's International Investment Position.

This was due to an increase in foreign-owned financial assets in India ($36.2 billion) compared with Indian residents' overseas financial assets ($24.1 billion).

The increase in reserve assets ($16.6 billion) was the largest contributor to the rise in Indian residents' foreign assets during April-June, followed by direct investment, loans and trade credit.

Foreign liabilities

Inward portfolio investment ($15 billion) and foreign direct investment ($8.9 billion) together accounted for two thirds of the rise in foreign liabilities of Indian residents.

The ratio of India's international assets to international liabilities moderated to 70.9% in June from 71.1% a quarter ago and 71.5% a year earlier, according to the data.

'Bank credit growth may slip to 13-13.5%'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bank credit growth is likely to moderate to 13-13.5% this fiscal as compared with growth of 15.9% reported in the last fiscal, Crisil said in a report.

The rating agency said bank credit would, however, improve a tad to 13.5-14% in fiscal 2025 as economic growth picked up.

"A key monitorable which will determine credit growth going forward is the extent to which deposit growth picks up for banks," it said. The moderation this fiscal, among other factors, is attributed to an expected decline in gross domestic product (GDP) growth this fiscal to 6% from 7.2% last fiscal, which will impact overall credit growth.

"Within overall bank credit, growth in wholesale credit (60% of overall credit) is likely to slow to 11-11.5% this fiscal from a decadal high of 15%," Crisil said in the report.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,508	-0.92
US Dollar	83.20	0.02
Gold	58,950	-1.09
Brent oil	95.86	-0.98

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2475.25	-8.05
Adani Ports	823.10	-7.60
Apollo Hosp	5020.10	-85.25
Asian Paints	3170.35	-131.45
Axis Bank	1030.90	5.70
Bajaj Auto	5006.60	-26.35
Bajaj Finserv	1539.70	-26.05
Bajaj Finance	7739.00	-98.55
Bharti Airtel	925.65	5.40
BPCL	343.95	-5.05
Britannia Ind	4524.55	-102.80
Cipla	1164.05	-16.45
Coal India	290.20	-1.35
Divis Lab	3665.00	-103.00
Dr Reddys Lab	5429.10	-67.35
Eicher Motors	3440.25	-39.45
Grasim Ind	1906.50	-24.60
HCL Tech	1241.90	-19.20
HDFC Bank	1523.70	-3.15
HDFC Life	634.70	-13.50
Hero MotoCorp	2970.00	-36.35
Hindalco	466.85	-8.10
Hind Unilever	2460.35	-41.40
ICICI Bank	942.60	-0.50
IndusInd Bank	1413.00	-23.45
Infosys	1439.45	-27.55
ITC	440.75	-8.40
JSW Steel	768.10	-11.50
Kotak Bank	1733.20	-31.95
L&T	3010.00	44.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5264.90	-172.00
M&M	1556.05	-33.15
Maruti Suzuki	10565.35	-115.40
NestleIndia	22538.45	-334.55
NTPC	237.05	-2.25
ONGC	187.45	0.20
PowerGrid Corp	200.75	1.40
Reliance Ind	2334.10	-34.80
SBI Life	1289.40	-11.60
State Bank	589.95	0.20
Sun Pharma	1132.30	-7.65
TataConsumerProduct	876.50	-12.35
Tata Motors	614.10	-6.05
Tata Steel	126.80	-1.35
TCS	3536.75	-52.55
Tech Mahindra	1229.50	-59.15
Titan	3157.25	-57.30
UltraTech Cement	8154.35	-108.35
UPL	605.00	-10.10
Wipro	405.35	-10.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.99	83.31
Euro	87.42	87.76
British Pound	101.18	101.57
Japanese Yen (100)	55.58	55.79
Chinese Yuan	11.36	11.41
Swiss Franc	90.42	90.78
Singapore Dollar	60.56	60.81
Canadian Dollar	61.50	61.74
Malaysian Ringitt	17.62	17.70
Australian Dollar	53.03	53.24

Source:Indian Bank

Govt. moots road, rail projects of ₹52,000 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government's flagship public infrastructure development programme – the PM Gati Shakti Scheme has recommended six major road and rail projects worth ₹52,000, including two greenfield highways proposed through Gujarat and two new railway projects in Odisha and Kerala.

Four of the projects considered by the programme were from the Road Transport and Highways Ministry worth ₹45,000 crore. These include a four-laning project in left-wing extremism-affected districts of Bihar, an interstate connectivity project in Uttar Pradesh and a road connecting Ahmednagar and Nashik in Maharashtra to the industrial belt of Navsari and Valsad in Gujarat.

Two railway projects worth ₹6,700 crore were also assessed. One entails doubling of lines in a "highly stressed corridor" of Kerala and the other involves the construction of a new connection between western Odisha's industrial and mineral clusters to the east coast ports.

'Sept. power demand hits five-year high'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sustained uptick in consumption had depleted coal stocks at power plants to 25 million tonnes

Overall demand for power this September hit a five-year high, rising 10%-12% from last year, but was still 7% below the level recorded in August when the monsoon was at its driest in a decade, Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics said in a report.

Despite the monsoon's recovery this month, September's peak demand for power hit an all-time high of 240 GW, from August's 238 GW, which had marked a fresh high too.

While Crisil Market Intelligence expects power demand to increase 9-10% year-on-year in the July-September quarter, it expects the full-year growth to be modest at about 5%. It also flagged that the sustained uptick in power consumption had depleted coal stocks with power plants from about 30 million tonnes on August 31 (enough for 10 days' operations) to 25 million tonnes by September 2.

"With El-Nino still looming as well as the onset of the festive season, the situation on peak power requirement and the ability of power plants to service the demand will be monitorables," the firm said.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-BIDs
SE(PROC-I)/NIB- 02/2023-24/BN- 9015002302 & 9015002303
Online e-bids are invited from interested bidders for Fabrication, Galvanizing, Testing and Supply of complete package of Galvanised Steel Structures along with required G. I. Bolts with Nuts (ISI marked), Spring washers, etc. for 220 kV & 132 kV Grid Sub-Station **(BN-9015002302, UBN-VPN2324GLRC01546)** and 245kV & 145 KV Current Transformers(0.2S Class) of various ratios **(BN-9015002303, UBN-VPN2324GLRC01547)** up to 15:00 hrs. dated 01.11.2023.
The detailed NIB and Bid document /specification are available for viewing/downloading on the website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**. Details of NIB are available on website **energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn**.
Any extension in bid submission/opening date (if any) will be floated/uploaded on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** & **energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn** only.
RRVPN/TR-6031/2023
Raj.Samwad/C/23/10216
Superintending Engineer (Proc-I)

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION I JODHPUR
Tele: 0291-2651750 Email: rj_acejo@nic.in
No.: ACE/ Region I / JU/ Ar. Distt./ 2023-24/ 5586-5605 Date: 18.09.2023
Short Term Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for work of "PROVIDING LAYING AND JOINTING OF PIPE LINE FROM DEOLIYA TO VILLAGE JALELI FAUJDARA UNDER DANTIWARA PROJECT JODHPUR" are invited from interested bidders upto 11.00 am (time) 29.09.2023 (date). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and PHED department website.
UBN No.:. PHE2324WLOBO8453
(Dinesh Kumar Nagori)
ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER
PHED REGION (I) JODHPUR
DIPR/C/14445/2023

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, नगर वृत्त (दक्षिण), जयपुर
क्रमांकः एफ.2(के) II/148/2023-24/4523-26 दिनांकः 18.09.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या 16/ 2023-24
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से इस वृत्त के अधीन विभिन्न कार्यों के लिए उपर्युक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निर्धारित पत्र में मुहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाइट www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्रम संख्या	निविदा संख्या	UBN No.
1.	16/2023-24	PHE2324WSOB08501

(अनिल कुमार शर्मा) अधीक्षण अभियंता
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग,
नगर वृत्त (दक्षिण), जयपुर
DIPR/C/14466/23

KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
ERNAKULAM - 682 020, Ph: 0481 2302445
www.keralapcb.gov.in, Email: kspcbclekm@gmail.com
e-TENDER NOTICE
Ref No: 1. PCB/CL/I&E/Non-Plan Purchase/2023-24 Date: 27.09.2023
2. PCB/CL/I&E/AS/2023-24
E-tenders are invited for the supply of Micro Balance with Anti Vibration Table, Dual Channel Specific Ion Meter for Fluoride & Cyanide & Bomb Calorie Meter

Tender ID: 2023_KSPCB_603708_1	Closing Date: 03.10.2023 at 05.00 PM
2023_KSPCB_605033_1	Closing Date: 06.10.2023 at 05.00 PM
2023_KSPCB_604718_1	Closing Date: 06.10.2023 at 05.00 PM
2023_KSPCB_604981_1	Closing Date: 06.10.2023 at 05.00 PM
2023_KSPCB_607468_1	Closing Date: 12.10.2023 at 05.00 PM

Details available in the site **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.keralapcb.gov.in**
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR
No-F/MC/Store /2023-24/3981 Dated:18.09.2023
Notice Inviting Bid
Bid for "Dedicated Pediatric Cardiac and CTVS Unit On turnkey Basis (10 Bedded ICU, 5 Bedded HDU and 65 Bedded ward)" & Various Items for Dedicated Pediatric Cardiac and CTVS Unit In J.K. Lone Hospital, SMS Medical College, Jaipur, are invited from interested bidders as per schedule in NIT Notice. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; and SMS Medical College, Jaipur department website.
UBN SMS2324GLOBO0374 to SMS2324GSOB00393
DIPR/C/14078/23 **PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER**

राजस्थान सरकार
जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति
कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, बीकानेर
स्वास्थ्य भवन त्यागी वाटिका बीकानेर
Email:- dpmu-bik-rj@nic.in, cmho-bik-rj@nic.in Mob- 9414117860
क्रमांक/एन.एच.एम./ई बोली/2023-24/1172-1175 दिनांकः 27.09.2023
Notice Inviting E-Bid
E-Bid for the Rate Contract procurement of Various equipments & Furnitures for CHCs and PHCs from Interested Bidders up to 4.00 PM time 04.10.2023 Date. Other particular of E- Bid may be visited on the procurement Portal **(http://sppp.raj.nic.in or e- procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in)**
UBN No:- Various Equipments MHS2324GLRC03961
UBN No:- Various Furniture MHS2324GLRC03962
सदस्य सचिव
DIPR/C/14723/2023 मुख्य चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी बीकानेर

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग द्वितीय जोधपुर (मुख्यालय बाड़मेर)
क्रमांकः- 2219-39 दिनांकः- 15.09.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या : 11 वर्ष 2023-2024
NIB No. PWD2324A3075
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से मुख्यमंत्री बजट घोषणा वर्ष 2023-24 में स्वीकृत यूसीआरवी, सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवम् दूरसंचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 01 कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रु. 796.54 लाख है के लिए ईटेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	:	18 सितम्बर 2023 9:30 बजे से 29 सितम्बर, 2023, सायं 05:00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। कार्यवार यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
1. PWD2324WLOB13555
(विजय कुमार वर्मा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय, जोधपुर, (मुख्यालय- बाड़मेर)
DIPR/C/14361/2023

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION, BHARATPUR
Phone: 05644-222731, e-mail: rj_acebha@nic.in
Corrigendum No. 01, NIT Nos. 98/2023-24
The following corrigendum is hereby issued for the NIB No. 98/2023-24 of this office.

Activity	Existing Provision	Amended Provision
Availability of tender documents on Website	From 21.08.2023 to 13.09.2023 upto 18.00 Hrs	From 21.08.2023 to 27.09.2023 upto 18.00 Hrs
last Date & time for online submission of Tender	From 21.08.2023 to 13.09.2023 upto 18.00 Hrs	From 21.08.2023 to 27.09.2023 upto 18.00 Hrs
Deposition of affidavits on Non Judicial Stamp Paper (Original)	Upto 10.30 AM on14.09.2023	Upto 10.30 AM on 29.09.2023
Date of opening of Pre-Qualification bid	14.09.2023 at 11.00 Hrs	29.09.2023 at 11.00 Hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in original NIT
UBN No.: PHE2324WLOBO6734
(Parshuram Verma)
Addl. Chief Engineer
PHED, Region Bharatpur
DIPR/C/14335/2023

कार्यालय जिला कलक्टर, नागौर
E-mail : dsongr.des@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांकः- सांख्यिकी/ लेखा/ निविदा/2023/817 दिनांकः 26 सितम्बर 2023
Expression of Interest (EOI) सूचना संख्या 04/2023-24
श्रीमान प्रमुख शासन सचिव आयोजना विभाग, राजस्थान सरकार जयपुर के पत्रांक एफ17(8)5/ डीईएस/रा.ज.आ.यो./ कार्ड/ 2019/ 2682 दिनांक 25.09.2023 के द्वारा जन सम्मान किट का मुद्रण व वितरण कार्य सम्पादन हेतु RTPP नियमों के नियम 17(1)(ख) के अनुसार घोषित State Administered Price पर पंजीकृत/ अनुभवी संवेदकों/ बिडर्स के चयन हेतु Expression of Interest (EOI) आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी एवं डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
NIB Number - ELE2324A0086, UBN: ELE2324SLSS00200
(डॉ. अमित यादव)
जिला कलक्टर, नागौर
DIPR/C/14591/23

DRL eyes nutraceuticals unit as part of wellness foray

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories' board has approved the formation of a wholly owned subsidiary focussed on nutraceuticals, as part of the company's strategy to expand into the health and wellness space.

The unit, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and relevant regulations, would engage in the business of medical and specialised nutrition, nutraceuticals, vitamins, minerals, herbals and supplements and related foods or drugs, the drugmaker said in a filing on Thursday.

DICV nets first profit of ₹304 crore in FY23

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Satyakam Arya

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), the Indian arm of Daimler AG, has posted profit for the first time since inception in 2012 while sales revenue cruised past the ₹10,000-crore mark in FY23 on account of strong offtake in the domestic market and sustained demand in the overseas market.

The maker of Bharat Benz vehicles achieved break-even in 2018 and in FY23 posted a net profit.

In FY23, total revenue of rose to ₹10,665 crore from ₹8,217 crore in the year-earlier period while net profit stood at ₹304 crore. It had logged a net loss of ₹1 crore in the year-earlier period, DICV said in a MCA filing. Earlier, MD and CEO Satyakam Arya described CY22 as one of the most successful business years since starting manufacturing operations in India.

He said in CY22, DICV registered a revenue growth of 37% while sales climbed 25% to 29,470 trucks and buses of which exports stood at 11,000.

Rane Madras floats wholly owned firm in Mexico

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Rane Madras Ltd. (RML) approved the setting up of a wholly owned subsidiary in Mexico called Rane Automotive Components Mexico S de R.L. de C.V. (RACM) with a fixed capital of 10,000 Mexican Pesos.

RACM will establish a greenfield facility to manufacture steering and linkage auto components catering to customers in Mexico and North American Region, RML said in a filing. Recently, RML sold its loss making wholly-owned step-down U.S. arm Rane Light Metal Casting Inc. for $4.90 million.

GENEVA

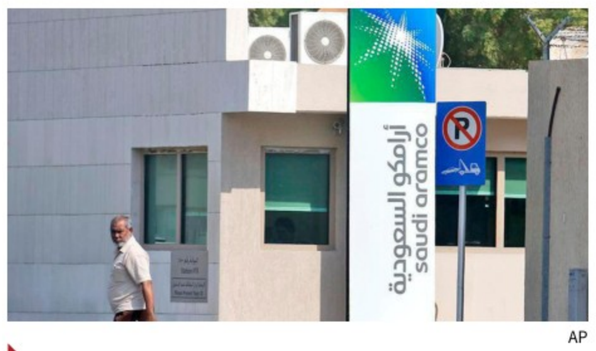
UN experts see 'systemic racism' in U.S. policing, stress urgent reform

REUTERS

United Nations rights investigators said on Thursday they had found systemic racism against black people throughout the U.S. policing and justice systems, and stressed the need for urgent reform. In a report, they pointed to "the entrenched systemic racism against people of African descent in the United States". AFP

RIYADH

Oil giant Saudi Aramco announces its first global deal in LNG market



AP

Saudi Aramco on Thursday announced its first global investment in liquefied natural gas, part of a broader bid by the energy giant to expand beyond oil. The company said it would acquire a minority stake worth $500 million in MidOcean Energy, which is managed by the U.S. investment firm EIG. AFP

MADRID

14-year-old stabs three teachers, two students at school in Spain

REUTERS

A 14-year-old on Thursday stabbed three teachers and two students in a school in southern Spain before being overpowered, police said. The boy, who has not been named, allegedly stabbed the victims repeatedly shortly after classes started, police spokesperson Adrian Dominguez told presspersons at the scene. AFP

SEOUL

N. Korea's Kim calls for increased nuclear weapons production

REUTERS

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un called for an exponential increase in production of nuclear weapons and for his country to play a larger role in a coalition of nations confronting the United States in a "new Cold War". The *Korean Central News Agency* said Mr. Kim's comments came during the country's rubber-stamp Parliament. AP

Nagorno-Karabakh's separatist govt. says it will dissolve itself as people flee

The move comes after Azerbaijan carried out a lightning offensive last week to reclaim full control over the region and demanded Armenian troops to disarm; the mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from the enclave began on Sunday

Associated Press
YEREVAN

The separatist government of Nagorno-Karabakh said on Thursday it will dissolve itself and the unrecognised republic will cease to exist by year's end after a three-decade bid for independence, while Armenian officials said over half of the region's population has already fled.

The moves came after Azerbaijan carried out a lightning offensive last week to reclaim full control over the region and demanded that Armenian troops in Nagorno-Karabakh disarm and the separatist government dissolve itself.

Race for life: Refugees boarding a bus near a Red Cross registration centre in Goris, South Armenia on Wednesday. AFP

A decree signed by the region's separatist President Samvel Shakhramanyan cited an agreement reached September 20 to end the fighting under which Azerbaijan will allow the "free, voluntary and unhindered movement" of Nagorno-Karabakh residents to Armenia.

Some of those who fled the regional capital of Stepanakert said they had no hope for the future.

The mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from the mountainous region inside Azerbaijan began on Sunday. By Thursday morning, over 70,000 people – more than half of Nagorno-Karabakh's population of 1,20,000 – had fled to Armenia, and the influx continued with unabating intensity, according to Armenian officials.

Long history

After separatist fighting ended in 1994 following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Nagorno-Karabakh came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces, backed by the Armenia. Then, during a six-week war in 2020, Azerbaijan took back parts of the region in the south Caucasus Mountains along with surrounding territory that Armenian forces had claimed earlier.

Nagorno-Karabakh was internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan's sovereign territory.

It isn't immediately clear if the ethnic Armenians still living in the region will remain there. Mr. Shakhramanyan's decree urged Nagorno-Karabakh's population – including those who left – "to familiarise themselves with the conditions of reintegration offered by the Republic of Azerbaijan, in order to then make an individual decision about the possibility of staying in [or returning to] Nagorno-Karabakh".

Russia to hike its defence spending by 70% in 2024

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Primary goal: Vladimir Putin and other officials have largely shrugged off the economic effects of the Ukraine offensive. AFP

Russia is set to hike defence spending by almost 70% in 2024, a Finance Ministry document published on Thursday showed, as Moscow pours resources into its full-scale offensive in Ukraine.

Since the conflict began last year, Russia has ramped up arms manufacturing and pumped massive funds into its military machine, despite persistently high inflation and a weaker ruble.

The document said defence spending was set to jump by over 68% year-on-year to almost 10.8 trillion rubles ($111.15 billion), totalling around 6% of GDP – more than spending allocated for social policy. Defence spending is set to total around three times more than education, environmental protection and healthcare spending combined in 2024, figures showed.

"The focus of economic policy is shifting from an anti-crisis agenda to the promotion of national development goals," the Finance Ministry said.

It said this included "strengthening the country's defence capacity" and "integrating" the four Ukrainian regions Moscow claimed to annex last year – Lugansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.

The increased defence spending comes as Russia's central bank warns economic growth is set to slow down in the second half of 2023, with inflation above the bank's target of 4%.

President Vladimir Putin and other officials have largely shrugged off the economic effects of the Ukraine offensive.

Trump slammed for no-show in debate

Agence France-Presse
SIMI VALLEY

Seven U.S. presidential hopefuls tussled over immigration, China and the economy on Wednesday at the second Republican primary debate – but saved some of their most strident remarks to slam frontrunner Donald Trump for spurning the showdown.

The former President, who is battling multiple criminal cases, has decided to skip the debates, and instead met auto industry workers in the battleground state of Michigan.

Mr. Trump's no-show prompted former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie – the ex-President's biggest antagonist among the candidates – to accuse the 77-year-old tycoon of hiding "behind the walls of his golf clubs".

More than 2,000 miles (3,000 km) away in Michigan, Mr. Trump was attempting to boost his blue-collar credentials and attack the pro-worker reputation cultivated by President Joe Biden.

Actor Michael 'Dumbledore' Gambon dies

Associated Press
LONDON

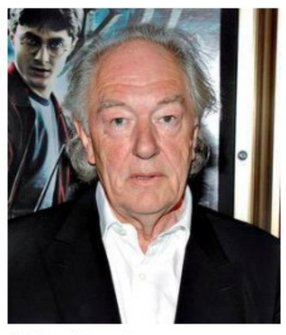
Veteran actor Michael Gambon, who was known to many for his portrayal of Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore in six of the eight "Harry Potter" films, has died, his publicist said on Thursday. He was 82.

A statement by his family, issued by his publicist, said he died following "a bout of pneumonia".

"We are devastated to announce the loss of Sir Michael Gambon. Beloved husband and father, Michael died peacefully in hospital with his wife Anne and son Fergus at his bedside," his family said.

No matter what role he took on in a career that lasted more than five decades, Gambon was always instantly recognisable by the deep and drawling tones of his voice. He was cast as the much-loved Dumbledore after the death of his predecessor, Richard Harris, in 2002.

He once acknowledged not having read any of J.K. Rowling's best-selling books, arguing that it was safer to follow the script rather than be too influenced by the books.



Michael Gambon

That didn't prevent him from embodying the spirit of Professor Dumbledore, the powerful wizard who fought against evil to protect his students.

Although the Potter role raised Gambon's international profile and introduced him to a new generation of fans, he had long been recognised as one of Britain's leading actors. His work spanned TV, theater and radio, and he starred in dozens of films from "Gosford Park" to "The King's Speech" and the animated family movie "Paddington".

Gambon was knighted for services to drama in 1998. Born in Ireland on Oct. 19, 1940, Gambon was originally trained as an engineer. He made his theater debut in a production of "Othello" in Dublin.

Taiwan tests its first in-house submarine

Associated Press
KAOHSIUNG

Taiwan's President launched the island's first domestically made submarine for testing on Thursday at a port in Kaohsiung. The submarine, if successful in its tests, will be a major breakthrough for Taiwan in shipbuilding and design.

"In the past, a domestic-made submarine was considered impossible, but today a submarine designed and built by our countrymen is in front of you," President Tsai Ing-wen said at the launch ceremony.

The U.S. has been pushing Taiwan to develop asymmetric warfare strategies by investing in smaller and lighter weapons such as the reduced-size submarine.

The submarine is named Hai Kun after a fish in Chinese mythology called kun with legendary proportions. It will only be handed over to the military after passing both its harbor and ocean-faring tests, according to *Central News Agency*.

Sport

Myneni-Ramkumar combo weathers spirited challenge from Kwon-Hong

ASIAN GAMES TENNIS

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

Before the Asian Games, the last time the pair of Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan played together was in an ATP 500 event in Dubai last year when they came in as wildcards but were dumped in the opening round. Cut to 18 months later, they stand at the cusp of claiming an Asian Games gold medal.

The duo avoided a slip up to make the final here at Hangzhou Olympic Tennis Centre on Thursday, overcoming a spirited South Korean team of Soonwoo Kwon and Seongchan Hong 6-1, 6(6)-7, (10)-(0).

Effective pairing: Myneni and Ramkumar in action against Hong and Kwon. PTI

In fact, since 2022, Ramkumar has had a successful pairing with Rohan Bopanna, winning two ATP 250 titles, while Saketh has teamed up with Yuki Bhambri and won seven ATP Challengers since April 2022. But when the pairing was announced for the men's doubles at the Asian Games by the All Indian Tennis Association, Bopanna joined forces with Bhambri and Ramkumar and Saketh became a team once again.

Myneni, though, he is happy to have a chance to add a gold medal after the loss in the 2014 Incheon final and defend India's 2018 men's doubles gold.

India exits after defeat to Saudi Arabia

AG FOOTBALL

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

The Indian men's football team exited the Asian Games after a 0-2 defeat to Saudi Arabia at the Huanglong Sports Centre Stadium on Thursday.

Marran's double

After a goalless first half, any hopes of India clinging on with its backs-to-the-wall defending were dashed within six minutes of the restart when Mohammed Marran rose above Sandesh Jhingan to give Saudi Arabia the lead.

Marran sealed the issue six minutes later by slotting in his second.

Evaldo lives up to the billing in the Maharaja's Cup

RACING

MYSURU: Prasanna Kumar-trained Evaldo (Akshay Kumar up) won the Maharaja's Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Thursday (Sept 28). The winner is owned by Mr. K. Manoj Kumar & Mrs. Gaja Manoj.

THE RESULTS:

INDRADHANUSH PLATE (DIV. I): REMBRANDT (Shreyas S) 1, Mighty Swallow (Arvind K) 2, Seventh Samurai (Antony) 3 and Free Spirited (Faiz) 4. Not run: Magic Circle. 1-1/4, 1-1/4 and 3. 1m, 27.18s. ₹23 (w), 15, 13 and 15 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 57, FP: 107, Q: 58, Trinella: 204, Exacta: 2,687. Favourite: Rembrandt.

Owners: M/s. Nitin Himmatmal Jain & Jatin Laxmikant Trivedi. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.

1. JAYANAGARA PLATE: RULING DYNASTY (Akshay K) 1, Sand Castles (Hindu S) 2, Dear Lady (Neeraj) 3 and Estefania (Antony) 4. 8-1/2, 4 and 22-1/2. 2m, 05.92s. ₹15 (w), 15 and 24 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 39, FP: 59, Q: 50, Trinella: 182, Exacta: 692. Favourite: Ruling Dynasty.

Owner: Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

2. VALAROSO PLATE: SPIRIT OF THE ROSE (G. Vivek) 1, Cletus (A. Merchant) 2, Biometric (S. Shareef) 3 and Ultimate Striker (Vinod Shinde) 4. 6-1/4, Nk and 1. 1m, 13.02s. ₹15 (w), 10, 38 and 19 (p), SHP: 127, THP: 46, FP: 258, Q: 164, Trinella: 893, Exacta: 1,459. Favourite: Spirit Of The Rose.

Owner: Mr. Subodh Chand Bothra. Trainer: Warren Singh.

3. AUNTY PIP PLATE: CHILLY BREEZE (Faiz) 1, War Song (Kiran Rai) 2, Natural Fly (Inayat) 3 and Airvelocity (M. Shahid) 4. Nose, 3-3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 28.35s. ₹114 (w), 24, 14 and 10 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 50, FP: 402, Q: 233, Trinella: 1,464, Exacta: 7,616 (carried over). Favourite: War Song.

Owner: Nippon Bloodstock & Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: C.D. Monnappa.

4. K.T. SHAMAIAH GOWDA MEMORIAL TROPHY: ASHTAR (T. Pavan) 1, Vijaya Falcon (G. Vivek) 2, Achook (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Heroism (Arshad) 4. Not run: Ghyama. 1-1/4, 1-3/4 and 3-3/4. 1m, 25.23s. ₹48 (w), 18, 16 and 14 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 37, FP: 103, Q: 43, Trinella: 984, Exacta: 6,688 (carried over). Favourite: Vijaya Falcon.

Owner: Mr. Hooshang K Pashootan. Trainer: G.T. Surender.

5. MAHARAJA'S CUP: EVALDO (Akshay K) 1, Santorina (Antony) 2, A Star Is Born (Suraj) 3 and Shubankar (G. Vivek) 4. 3/4, 2-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 36.48s. ₹17 (w), 11 and 12 (p), SHP: 19, THP: 20, FP: 22, Q: 20, Trinella: 42, Exacta: 75. Favourite: Evaldo.

Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar & Mrs. Gaja Manoj. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. SON OF THE LIGHT PLATE (DIV. II): THE KING N I (Koshi K) 1, Solo Prince (L.A. Rozario) 2, Baltimore (Antony) 3 and Jersey Legend (Arvind K) 4. Not run: D Don King. 4-3/4, 1-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 13.64s. ₹27 (w), 15, 12 and 18 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 40, FP: 42, Q: 27, Trinella: 356, Exacta: 9,068. Favourite: The King N I.

Owner: Mr. Dinesh Kumar K. Trainer: Warren Singh.

7. SON OF THE LIGHT PLATE (DIV. I): AIR DISPLAY (Inayat) 1, Ombudsman (Vinod Shinde) 2, Four Wheel Drive (Tousif) 3 and Osiris (M. Naveen) 4. Not run: Phoenix Surprise. 4, Nose and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.51s. ₹26 (w), 17, 21 and 29 (p), SHP: 80, THP: 54, FP: 395, Q: 235, Trinella: 2,044, Exacta: 10,144. Favourite: Air Display.

Owner and trainer: Mr. S. Inayathulla.

Jackpot: ₹15,811 (carried over); Mini Jackpot: 2,025 (carried over); Treble (i): 1,650 (carried over); (ii): 154 (24 tkts).

CHARGING ON

Sarath & Sathiyan advance; Manika through while Sreeja bows out

Sharath Kamal & G. Sathiyan defeated Ser-od Gankhuyag & Manlaijargal Munkh-Ochir 3-0 in the men's table tennis doubles round-of-32. Manush Patel & Manav Thakkar beat Moosa Munif Ahmed and Mohamed Shaffan Ismail 3-1. Manika Batra beat Nabita Shrestha 4-0. Sreeja Akula lost to Songgyong Pyon 4-0.

THUMPING WIN

Women shuttlers blank Mongolia, qualify for quarterfinals

The Indian women's badminton team secured a win in the round of 16 matches to qualify for the quarterfinals of the event at the 19th edition of the Asian Games in Hangzhou on Thursday. The Indian women's team of P.V. Sindhu, Ashmita Chaliha, Anupama Upadhyaya, and Malvika Bansod beat Mongolia 3-0.

ALL SMILES

Indian men and women enter team semifinal in squash

The Indian men's squash team defeated Nepal 3-0 to reach the semifinal of the Asian Games on Thursday. India beat Singapore, Qatar and Kuwait before losing to Pakistan in the pool matches. Earlier, the Indian women's team, *in pic*, made the last-four despite losing to Malaysia in its final Pool B tie, assuring itself of a medal.

ALL-ROUNDER

Al-Attiyah swaps motor sports for shooting at Asian Games

Five-time Dakar Rally champion Nasser Al-Attiyah of Qatar did no training for the Asian Games and still came away with two medals in shooting. The 52-year-old, *right in pic*, already an Asian Games gold medallist in shooting in 2002 and 2010, returned to the podium with a men's skeet team silver and skeet individual bronze in Hangzhou.

Sarabjot-Arjun-Shiva trio delivers another gold

The 10m air rifle team's performance offers solace after Saurabh finishes a disappointing fourth in the individual event; Anush bags individual bronze in the equestrian Dressage event

On the podium: The men's 10m air pistol team finished on a high while Anush, astride Etro, took the third spot. PTI

ASIAN GAMES

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

In an event where India's Saurabh Chaudhary owns the Asian Games record, Indian shooters faltered to finish fourth and eighth respectively but not before combining to add yet another team gold, this time in 10m air pistol, from the ranges to the country's medal tally.

Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema and Shiva Narwal combined to score 1734 points to finish on top, just one point ahead of host China and four away from third-placed Vietnam. Like in several other events, it was a brilliant fightback from the Indians, who all required a series of 10s on their final shots to keep China at bay and they managed to come up with the goods. That all three were placed low down the order with scores of 92 and 95 for Narwal and Sarabjot respectively in the opening round only made the comeback more special.

"It is an unexpected gold, to be very honest. But it is my first Asian Games so getting a medal, that too gold, is very special. We are like brothers, competitive on the range and close out of it... so doing this with them feels really nice," Sarabjot said.

The 21-year old from Chandigarh, who also finished fourth in the individual event - he was one of two Indians in the individual final, along with Cheema - admitted he was disappointed with the individual performance but for someone shooting at less than 100 per cent fitness, it was a creditable outing.

Chaudhary shot 240.7 in Jakarta five years back for the Games record while Vietnam's Quang Huy Pham took gold with 240.5 points. Sarabjot shot 199.

Feeling unreal

Anush Agarwalla continued his winning form in equestrian, adding an individual bronze in the Dressage event to the team gold a day earlier.

Riding astride Etro, Anusha totalled 73.030 points – 69.900 for technical and 76.160 in the artistic section – to finish third. Teammate Hriday Chheda, however, was eliminated after blood was spotted on his horse Chemxpro's leg.

"The feeling is unreal. I still don't believe I have won the bronze even after winning the team gold. I knew I had a good partnership with my horse and I knew knew it would be a good day when I got up in the morning. I just felt good about it, I even texted my mother that we will get something.

"My horse has been amazing all through, it's been a long and often difficult journey but holding this medal today, I feel it was all worth it," said Anush after the event.

India's prospects in athletics more promising than ever before

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

When the track & field events kick off here on Friday, there will be more hope and expectation from Indian athletes than at any time in the recent past. Starved both of achievements and stars at the global level and with a massive 68-member squad for Hangzhou, India will be hoping to do better than the 20 medals it won in 2018.

Seven of them will be vying for medals on the opening day of competition – Tanya Chaudhary and Rachna Kumari in hammer throw, Manpreet Kaur and Kiran Baliyan in shot put, Priyanka in women's 20km race walk and Sandeep Kumar and Vikash Singh in the men's section. Also in action will be the quartermilers Anas and Ajmal, and Himanshi and Aishwarya in their respective heats.

Often the marquee sport at any multi-discipline event, the secret to a medal in track & field is not easy to crack. At the continental level, though, India has fared much better. With a total of 254 medals over the years, including 79 gold, 88 silver and 87 bronze, India sits strong at third spot in the all-time list at the Asian Games. That is in start contrast to its performances at the other major track & field competitions – 61st in the Olympics, tied 65th at the World Championships and 15th at the Commonwealth Games.

India's biggest challenge on track and on the field has mainly come from China and Japan. With most athletics powerhouses – barring USA and the Caribbean islands – being in Europe, Indian athletes have generally had decent outings in terms of medals, if not in performance levels. That has been challenged in recent times with the influx of African-origin athletes as naturalised citizens of oil-rich middle-eastern countries, specially Qatar and Bahrain.

This time around, though, hopes from the Indians have been backed by performances through the year. While the World Championships did not produce too many highs, the sheer number of Indians in the fray was refreshing. Also the fact that three Indians qualified for the Diamond League Final and long-jumper Praveen Chithravel received an invite augurs well.

Two Indian long jumpers went into the Worlds as world leaders, the quartermilers cracked the three-minute mark and the Asian record and Parul Chaudhary set a new national record in steeplechase. Jyothi Yarraji has clocked seven official sub-13 sec timings in 100m hurdles this season, most by any Asian. Two javelin throwers finished in the top-six even as the biggest name of the all, Neeraj Chopra, won gold. At the Asian Games, many of them would be looking at adding to their tally from five years ago.

India's golden athletes at Asian Games

Men

1951: **Lavi Pinto** (100m, 200m); **Ranjit Singh** (800m); **Nikka Singh** (1,500m); **Chhota Singh** (marathon); **Mahabir Prasad** (10,000m walk); **Bakhtawar Singh** (50km walk); **Madan Lal** (shot put); **Makhan Singh** (discus); **A.S Bakshi, Govind Singh, Balwant Singh, Karan Singh** (4x400m relay).

1954: **Sarwan Singh** (110m hurdles); **Ajit Singh Balla** (high jump); **Parduman Singh Brar** (shot put, discus).

1958: **Milkha Singh** (200m, 400m); **Balkar Singh** (discus); **Mohinder Singh** (triple jump); **Parduman Singh Brar** (shot put).

1962: **Milkha Singh** (400m); **Mohinder Singh** (1,500m); **Gurbachan Singh Randhawa** (decathlon); **Daljit, Jagdish Singh, Makhan Singh, Milkha Singh** (4x400m relay), **Tarlok Singh** (10,000m).

1966: **Bhogeswar Baruah** (800m); **Joginder Singh** (shot put); **Praveen Kumar** (discus); **Ajmer Singh** (400m); **Bhim Singh** (high jump).

1970: **Joginder Singh** (shot put); **Praveen Kumar** (discus); **Mohinder Singh Gill** (triple jump).

1974: **Sriram Singh** (800m); **Shivnath Singh** (5000m); **T.C. Yohannan** (long jump); **Vijay Singh Chauhan** (decathlon).

1978: **Sriram Singh** (800m); **Bahadur Singh Chouhan** (shot put); **Suresh Babu** (long jump); **Hari Chand** (5000m, 10,000m).

1978: **Ramaswamy Gnanasekaran** (200m); **Hakam Singh** (20km walk).

1982: **Charles Borromeo** (800m); **Bahadur Singh Chouhan** (shot put); **Chand Ram** (20km walk).

2002: **Bahadur Singh Sagu** (shot put).

2010: **Joseph Abraham** (400m hurdles).

2018: **Manjit Singh** (800m); **Arpinder Singh** (triple jump); **Tajinderpal Singh Toor** (shot put); **Jinson Jonson** (1500m); **Neeraj Chopra** (javelin).

Women

1954: **Christine Brown, Stephie D'Souza, Violet Peters, Mary D'Souza** (4x100m relay).

1970: **Kamaljeet Sandhu** (400m).

1978: **Geeta Zutshi** (800m).

1982: **M.D. Valsamma** (400m hurdles).

1986: **P.T. Usha** (200m, 400m, 400m hurdles); **M. D. Valsamma, Vandana Rao, Shiny Abraham, P. T. Usha** (4x400m relay).

1998: **Jyotirmoyee Sikdar** (800m, 1500m).

2002: **Saraswati Saha** (200m); **Sunita Rani** (1500m); **K.M. Beenamol** (800m); **Jincy Phillip, Manjeet Kaur, Soma Biswas, K. M. Beenamol** (4x400m relay); **Anju Bobby George** (long jump); **Neelam Jaswant Singh** (discus).

2006: **Sathi Geetha, Pinki Pramanik, Chitra Soman, Manjeet Kaur** (4x400m relay).

2010: **Preeja Sreedharan** (10,000m); **Ashwini Akkunji** (400m hurdles); **Sudha Singh** (3000m steeplechase); **Manjeet Kaur, Sini Jose, Ashwini Akkunji, Mandeep Kaur** (4x400m relay).

2014: **Priyanka Pawar, Tintu Lukka, Mandeep Kaur, M. R. Poovamma** (4x400m relay); **Seema Punia** (discus).

2018: **Hima Das, M.R. Poovamma, Sarita Gayakwad, V.K. Vismaya** (4x400m relay); **Swapna Barman** (heptathlon); **Muhammed Anas, M. R. Poovamma, Hima Das, Arokia Rajiv** (4x400m mixed relay).

Roshibina loses to Wu, bags silver

Battling it out: India's Roshibina gave it her best shot, but it was Wu who had the last laugh. PTI

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

Roshibina Devi lost the Wushu gold medal bout to China's Wu Xiaowei at the Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre on Thursday.

Wu had a slight height advantage and used it to good effect against Roshibina, whose punches and kicks failed to make an impact.

Roshibina vowed to learn from the defeat and come back stronger. "Next time I will do better and bring gold for India. My country has supported me a lot and the fans' blessings have helped me get this far," she said.

The situation in Manipur has kept her away from home for more than four months.

"My parents don't let me come home. I live in a hostel in Imphal. They think it's better for me to be in the hostel than go home," she said. "Sirs [National coach Kuldeep Handoo, assistant coach Rajesh Kumar Tailor] don't let me talk to them daily as they feel it will affect me mentally. I talk to my family on Sundays for a short while."

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some of the Indian performances on Thursday:

Artistic Gymnastics: Women's vault (final): Pranati (eighth).

Badminton: Women's team (round-of-16): bt Mongolia 3-0.

Boxing (round-of-16): Women's 60kg: Jaismine bt Hadeel (KSA).

Men: 51kg: Deepak lost to Tsuboi (Jpn); **71kg:** Nishant bt Bui (Vie).

Equestrian: Dressage: Individual: Anush (**Bronze**).

Football: Men's round-of-16: lost to Saudi Arabia 0-2.

Golf (round 1): Men: Individual: Anirban (T9), Chawrasia (T19), Shubhankar (T22), Khalin (T31); **Team:** T5.

Women: Individual: Aditi (T2), Pranavi (T17), Avani (T21); **Team:** Fifth.

Hockey: Men: Pool A: bt Japan 4-2.

Shooting: Men's 10m air pistol: Individual (final): 4. Sarabjot, 8. Arjun; **Team:** Gold (Sarabjot, Arjun, Shiva).

Squash (team): Men: Pool A: bt Nepal 3-0; **Women:** Pool B: lost to Malaysia 0-3.

Swimming (finals): Men's 4x100m freestyle relay: Sixth; **Women's 4x200m freestyle relay:** Eighth.

Table tennis: Singles (round-of-32): Men: Sharath Kamal bt Ismail (Mdv) 4-0; Sathiyan bt Almutairi (KSA) 4-0.

Women: Manika bt Nabita (Nep) 4-0; Gyong (PRK) bt Sreeja 4-0.

Doubles (round-of-32): Men: Sharath & Sathiyan bt Ser-Od & Munkh-Ochir (Mgl) 3-0; Manush & Manav bt Moosa & Ismail (Mdv) 3-1.

Women: Sutirtha & Ayhika bt Akasheva & Lavrova (Kaz) 3-0; Sreeja & Diya bt Ngoc & Nga (Vie) 3-0.

Mixed doubles (round-of-16): Chew & Jian (Sgp) bt Sathiyan & Manika 3-2; Phakpoom & Paranang (Tha) bt Harmeet & Sreeja 3-0.

Tennis: Men's doubles (semifinals): Myneni & Ramkumar bt Seong-chan & Soon-woo (Kor) 6-1, 6-7(6), [10-0].

Mixed doubles (quarterfinals): Rutuja & Bopanna bt Kulambayeva & Lomakin (Kaz) 7-5, 6-3.

Wushu: Women's 60kg final: Roshibina loses to Xiaowei (Chn), **bags silver**.

INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY

A look at some Indian players/teams who will compete on Friday (all times IST):

Athletics: Men: 20km race walk final: Sandeep, Vikash (4.30 a.m.); 400m (round 1): Anas, Ajmal (4.55 p.m.); **Women:** 20km race walk final: Priyanka (4.40 a.m.); 400m (round 1): Aishwarya, Himanshi (4.30 p.m.); Hammer (final): Tanya, Rachna (4.40 p.m.); Shotput (final): Kiran, Manpreet (6.15 p.m.).

Basketball 3x3: Men: Pool C: vs. China, 5.20 p.m.

Badminton: Quarterfinals: Women's team (6.30 a.m.); Men's team (2.30 p.m.).

Boxing: Women's 57kg (round-of-16): Parveen vs. Zichun (Chn), noon; Men's 80kg (round-of-16): Lakshya vs. Omurbek (Kgz), 1.45 p.m.; Women's 50kg (quarterfinals): Nikhat vs. Hanan (Jor), 4.45 p.m.

Chess: Team (round 1): Men and women, 12.30 p.m.

Golf: Round 2: Men's individual and team; Women's individual and team, 4 a.m.

Hockey: Women: Pool A: vs. Malaysia, 4 p.m.

Shooting: Women's 10m air pistol (qualification round, team medals and individual final): Divya, Palak, Esha; Men's 50m rifle 3 positions (qualification, team medals and final): Aishwary Pratap, Swapnil, Akhil (6.30 a.m.).

Squash: Semifinals: Women's team (8.30 a.m.); Men's team (1.30 p.m.).

Swimming: Men (heats and finals): 200m backstroke: Srihari, Advait; 400m freestyle: Aryan, Kushagra; 200m butterfly: Aneesh, Sajan; **Women:** 50m butterfly (heats and final): Nina; 800m freestyle (slow and fast heats): Vritti (7.30 a.m.).

Table tennis: Singles and doubles matches, 7.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.

Tennis: Men's doubles final: Myneni & Ramkumar vs. Jung & Hsu (Tpe), 7.30 a.m.; Mixed doubles semifinal: Rutuja & Bopanna vs. Hao-ching & Hsu (Tpe), not before noon.

Medals Table

Country	G	S	B	T
China	90	51	26	167
South Korea	24	23	39	86
Japan	18	30	30	78
Uzbekistan	6	10	15	31
India	**6**	**8**	**11**	**25**
Thailand	6	3	9	18
Hong Kong	5	12	15	32
Chinese Taipei	4	4	6	14
Iran	3	9	10	22
North Korea	3	5	4	12

India survives late scare from Japan, meets Pakistan next

Wake-up call: Despite the win against Japan, the Indians need to regroup. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

Two goals in the last four minutes saw Japan reduce the deficit but India's superiority till then ensured a 4-2 win against the reigning Asian Games champion in the first real test for the Indians. It was also a wake-up call for the World No. 3 side in its pursuit of only the fourth gold in the tournament in 17 attempts and a Paris Olympics direct qualification berth.

Abhishek put India ahead in the 13th minute before a Mandeep attempt trickled past the goalline for the second. Amit Rohidas flicked home the third while Abhishek and Mandeep combined for the fourth. "We did well in the first three quarters, we had control over the game... then the last 5 minutes, they had nothing to lose and they pushed," said India coach Craig Fulton.

Next up will be Pakistan and that won't be an easy game either, regardless of rankings.

INBRIEF

Diaz and Joselu on target as Real sinks Las Palmas

Real Madrid eased to a 2-0 win over Las Palmas on Wednesday to overtake Barcelona and move second, but Girona is the surprise LaLiga leader after after a 2-1 win at Villarreal.

The results: LaLiga: Athletic Bilbao 2 (Berchiche 6, I Williams 62) drew with Getafe 2 (Alvarez 51, Latasa 83); Real Madrid 2 (Diaz 45+2, Joselu 54) bt Las Palmas 0; Villarreal 1 (Parejo 49-pen) lost to Girona 2 (Dovbyk 56, E Garcia 61); Valencia 0 lost to Real Sociedad 1 (Fernandez 32); Cadiz 0 drew with Rayo Vallecano 0.
Serie A: Cagliari 1 (Luvumbo 29) lost to AC Milan 3 (Okafor 40, Tomori 45, Loftus-Cheek 60); Inter Milan 1 (Dumfries 45+1) lost to Sassuolo 2 (Bajrami 54, Berardi 63); Napoli 4 (Zielinski 19-pen, Osimhen 39, Kvaratskhelia 74, Simeone 81) bt Udinese 1 (Samardzic 80).

Newcastle knocks out Man City from League Cup

Manchester City crashed out of the League Cup with a 1-0 defeat at Newcastle on Wednesday. Alexander Isak scored the only goal.

LIVE TELECAST

Asian Games: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. onwards
Men's Cricket World Cup: (Warm-up fixtures), Star Sports 1, 2, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Asian Games: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Ashwin drafted in place of injured Axar in India's squad

The offie's second wind in white-ball cricket gets a glorious extension as the left-arm spinner's quadriceps injury report reveals that it will take at least a week more for him to be match-fit

ODI WORLD CUP

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Ace off-spinner R. Ashwin has been drafted into India's World Cup squad in place of Axar Patel who got injured during the team's Asia Cup campaign in Sri Lanka earlier this month.

The Tamil Nadu player will be making his third 50-over World Cup appearance and is only one of two members of the victorious 2011 title-winning squad alongside Virat Kohli.

Earlier this month, Ashwin returned to the one-day set-up for the three-match ODI series against Australia that concluded on Wednesday, indicating he was being looked at as a possible replacement.

Ashwin played the first two matches, which India won and scalped four wickets with a best effort of three for 41 in the second game at Indore.

Before the two games he played this month, Ashwin last played a ODI series back in 2022 in South Africa.

The wily off-spinner will add variety to the team's bowling attack alongside left-arm spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav.

Seasoned pro: The induction of the wily Ashwin will add variety to India's bowling attack. VIJAY SONEJI

With 155 wickets from 115 ODIs, Ashwin brings in a lot of experience to the squad. The selection also marks a remarkable second wind for the 37-year-old in white-ball cricket after being dropped from the side in 2017. He has now made the squad for the last three ICC events (the 2021 T20 World Cup, the 2022 T20 World Cup and the 2023 50-over World Cup).

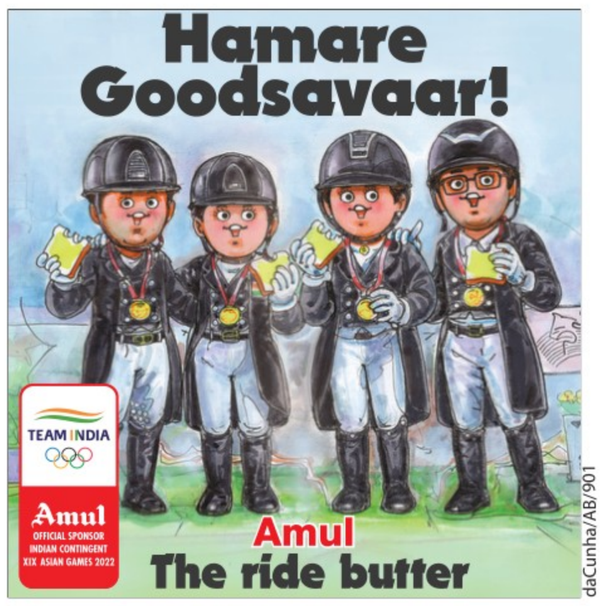
The Hindu understands that the latest medical report on Axar's quadriceps injury was presented to the national selection panel on Thursday morning. Once the report stated Axar needed at least one more week to be match-fit, the selectors decided to replace him with Ashwin.

As a result, the International Cricket Council (ICC) was informed about the change in the squad on Thursday, the last day before the tournament window sets in.

Friday onwards, no team can make a change except in case of an injury to a squad member. Also, a replaced player cannot be brought back in the squad for the remainder of the World Cup.

India will kickstart its World Cup campaign against Australia at Chennai's M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Oct. 8, and Ashwin could make a remarkable homecoming in the 50-over World Cup in his backyard.

The squad: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Hardik Pandya (Vice-capt.), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, R. Ashwin, Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav.



High intensity games in hot conditions against Aussies gladdens Dravid

Key players: Kohli, left, and Rohit. VIJAY SONEJI

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
RAJKOT

Rahul Dravid is glad that India could play a series of intense cricket against Australia ahead of the World Cup.

"It may be tough to get that level of intensity in the warm-up games as people generally tend to play 15 against 15," he said. "We have seen in this series of three games a lot of intensity in hot conditions."

India clinched the series (2-1) after posting wins at Mohali and Indore, though it lost the last match here on Wednesday. About the defeat, he felt the team conceded some easy runs in the early part of the Australian innings.

"We probably gave away some 30-40 runs in our first 30 overs... we were on par when Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were batting and we needed one of our top three to get a 130 or 140 in these kinds of chases," he said. "We have ticked a few boxes in the series. It has been nice to see guys who have come back (into the side) getting some good cricket."

He said the World Cup was going to be a long, tough tournament. "We constantly try to improve as a team even when the results are going our way," he said.

Dravid expressed confidence that the team would be in full strength before the first warm-up at Guwahati, against England on Saturday. Only 13 players were available for the last ODI.

"We have had a few issues with viral going around the group," he said. "It was a bit of a balancing act, because a few guys had to go home due to personal reasons.

"There was a team leaving for the Asian Games, so some of the guys like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Tilak Varma had to go.

"I expect everyone to be there in Guwahati by Friday morning. The bug around the group should've cleared up."

Afghanistan's primary goal will be to improve its poor record

WC COUNTDOWN

Ashwin Achal

Afghanistan limped out of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup after losing all nine of its group-stage matches. In the previous edition, Afghanistan recorded its only win in an ODI World Cup fixture, when it edged out Scotland by one wicket.

The primary goal of the Asian minnows this time around would be to correct this poor record with a few upsets. This will not be an easy task, given the side's poor recent results.

Miscalculation

Afghanistan was blanked 0-3 by Pakistan in ODIs held in Sri Lanka last month. The succeeding Asia Cup was not much better, with the unit losing both outings (to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka). That the Sri Lanka defeat came through an apparent miscalculation of the chase equation will provide little to no comfort to the players.

Afghanistan's best chance to get on the points column will come when it takes on the Netherlands at Lucknow on November 3. Bangladesh is another possible victim on the radar, given that Afghanistan won a three-match ODI series when the teams met in July this year.

The squad boasts of a strong spin attack, comprising Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Noor Ahmad.

ACE IN THE PACK

Mohammad Nabi: The all-rounder may be among the oldest players in the side, but he still packs a punch.
Nabi's never-say-die attitude was highlighted when he hammered a 32-ball 65 to nearly take Afghanistan over the hill against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup.
A dependable performer, Nabi can also be trusted to deliver his off-spinners without fuss.

Man in form

Captain Hashmatullah Shahidi is the man in form with the bat. At No. 4, Shahidi made scores of 51 and 59 in the Asia Cup.

Wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran form a dangerous opening pair. Gurbaz showed his class with a 151 against a strong Pakistan bowling line-up which included the likes of Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and Shadab Khan in the second ODI last month.

In the same outing, Zadran came good with a 101-ball 80.

The experienced Rahmat Shah, who is set to earn 100 ODI caps during the course of the World Cup, lends stability at one-drop.

There was a surprise in store on Wednesday when fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq took to social media to announce that he would retire from ODI cricket after the World Cup. Naveen, who last played an ODI in January 2021, stated that he wants to focus on T20 cricket.

Afghanistan's readiness for the big stage will be put to test on Friday, when it faces South Africa at Thiruvananthapuram in its first warm-up game.

Afghanistan

World Cup numbers

	M	W	L
Overall	15	1*	14
H2H against teams in the 2023 edition			
vs. Australia	2	0	2
vs. Bangladesh	2	0	2
vs. England	2	0	2
vs. New Zealand	2	0	2
vs. Sri Lanka	2	0	2
vs. India	1	0	1
vs. Pakistan	1	0	1
vs. South Africa	1	0	1
vs. Netherlands	-	-	-

The Afghanistan caravan

Oct. 7	vs. Bangladesh	Dharamshala	10.30 a.m.
Oct. 11	**vs. India**	**Delhi**	**2 p.m.**
Oct. 15	vs. England	Delhi	2 p.m.
Oct. 18	vs. New Zealand	Chennai	2 p.m.
Oct. 23	vs. Pakistan	Chennai	2 p.m.
Oct. 30	vs. Sri Lanka	Pune	2 p.m.
Nov. 3	vs. Netherlands	Lucknow	2 p.m.
Nov. 7	vs. Australia	Mumbai	2 p.m.
Nov. 10	vs. South Africa	Ahmedabad	2 p.m.

**Afghanistan's win came against Scotland (2015)*

SNAPSHOTS

Bavuma to miss WC warm-up games

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: South Africa suffered a setback on Thursday with ODI skipper Temba Bavuma returning home due to personal reasons ahead of the side's two warm-up games of the ICC World Cup on Sept. 29 and Oct. 2.

T20I captain Aiden Markram will be leading the side in the absence of Bavuma, who is likely to rejoin the team ahead of their opening game

Houston Dynamo claims U.S. Open Cup

FORT LAUDERDALE: Houston Dynamo defeated Inter Miami 2-1 to win the U.S. Open Cup on Wednesday with an injured Lionel Messi watching from the stands.

Without Messi and his former Barcelona teammate Jordi Alba, Miami struggled and was 2-0 down at the break with a goal from Griffin Dorsey and a penalty from Amine Bassi. Josef Martinez pulled one back for Miami in stoppage time but it was too little, too late.

First electric two-wheeler race set for IMRC fourth round

CHENNAI: The first electric two-wheeler race will be held during the fourth round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian Motorcycle Racing Championship (IMRC) 2023 at the Madras International Circuit (MIC) between September 29 and October 1.

The TVS Apache RTE (Racing Throttle Electric) will be seen in action with eight hand-picked riders astride the 200cc bikes in a separate category called TVS E Invitation Race.

Irani Cup to be held from October 1

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The 2023-24 domestic cricket season will resume on October 1, with Saurashtra hosting Rest of India in the Irani Cup at Rajkot. Jaydev Unadkat will lead Saurashtra while Hanuma Vihari will helm RoI.

The teams (from): Saurashtra: Jaydev Unadkat (Capt.), Cheteshwar Pujara, Sheldon Jackson, Arpit Vasavada, Harvik Desai, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Prerak Mankad, Chirag Jani, Jay Gohil, Parth Bhut, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja, Samarth Vyas, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya, Kushang Patel, Snell Patel and Devang Karamta.
Rest of India: Hanuma Vihari (Capt.), K S Bharat, Mayank Agarwal, Yash Dhull, Shams Mulani, Sai Sudarshan, Sarfaraz Khan, Pulkit Narang, Saurabh Kumar, Yash Dayal, Navdeep Saini, Vidwath Kaverappa, Akash Deep, Rohan Kunnummal and Dhruv Jurel.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Anukriti and Kishan go top of the table

Anukriti Bishnoi of Haryana went top of the table with a total pinfall of 1053 in her first after the first block of six games on day four of the ARC 32nd National Tenpin bowling championships on Thursday.

Judy Alban of Karnataka is in second position with a total pinfall of 1029.

Defending Champion Sabeena Athica of Tamil Nadu is currently sixth with a total pinfall of 997.

In the men's category, at the end of first block of games in the second round two, R. Kishan of Karnataka leads the table with total pinfall of 4070.

MEG & Center blanks BUFC

MEG & Center FC blanked BUFC 3-0 in the BDFA Super Division League football on Thursday.

Anukriti.

The results: MEG & Center 3 (Ayush 43, Sarath Narayanan 47, Shaik Muzeeb 86) bt BUFC 0.
Roots 1 (R. Vishal 46) bt HAL 0.

Easy for Roots

Roots FC registered a convincing 4-0 victory over Rebels Womens in the Karnataka Women's League on Thursday.
The results: Misaka United 2 (Marbarin Nongrum 12, 59) bt BFC 0.
Roots 4 (Neha Mukati 10, Ayushi Malavi 41-OG, Rosy Thanga 46, Aania Rushank Muthreja 63) bt Rebels Womens 0.

Sports Minister presents cash awards to Asian Games medallists

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur presented cash awards to the medal winning athletes from the Asian Games women's cricket, shooting and rowing teams at a felicitation function here on Thursday.

The gold winning women's cricket team, led by Harmanpreet Kaur was the cynosure of all eyes, even though only four members could attend the function.

Harmanpreet along with Shafali Verma, Amanjot Kaur and Kanika Ahuja collected ₹2.25 crore on behalf of the whole team.

The gold fetches ₹30 lakh in Asian Games. And a team of more than 10 players gets five times the amount to be distributed among the players. As a special case, the 15-member team was given ₹15 lakh each.

Recognition: Sports Minister Anurag Thakur with the medal winners on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shooters Rudrankksh Patil, Ramita Jindal, Mehuli Ghosh, Adarsh Singh, Vijayveer Sidhu and Anish Bhanwala along with coach Suma Shirur were present.

"We are really grateful for the support from NRAI, SAI, TOPS. With continued support we can achieve much more," said World champion Rudrankksh.

The rowing team was present in strength along with the coaches and collected awards ranging from ₹6,67,000, to ₹15,00,000.

"Rowing is not that popular. Thanks to all the support, we could give a good performance," said Arjun Lal Jat, who won the double sculls silver along with Arvind Singh. The silver cash award of ₹20 lakh was converted to ₹30 lakh as per the formula for the two member team.